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Why my fight goes on PAGE 13



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I'VE GOT A LITTLE LIST
How children are calling the shots this Christmas
PAGE 10

£150m bill for killing 'at risk' cattle

Beef export ban remains despite cull

By Philip Webster and Charlie Bremner

EUROPE told Britain yesterday that the world ban on British beef would remain in force indefinitely, in spite of the Government's decision to slaughter 100,000 cattle most at risk from "mad cow" disease.

Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, said the Government was going ahead with the £150 million cull — first mooted in July and then suspended in September — because it was the only way to make any progress on lifting the ban. "It is a political fact, not a scientific fact," he told MPs. "If we do not commit ourselves to a selective cull, then we are certain not to see any progress of any kind."

But even before his Commons statement, the European Commission ruled out any swift lifting of the ban, and one senior Conservative predicted that it could last for years.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, made clear that Britain must go through all the EU's decision-making hurdles before there could be any softening of the embargo. And Mr Hogg, who will meet fellow farm ministers in Brussels today, admitted that Britain would not secure a timetable. He told MPs that they "should not be under any illusion as to how quickly a selective cull will lead to a resumption of exports of British beef."

Mr Fischler said that he had not been told officially about Britain's decision to cull an extra 100,000 cattle and it was up to the Government to put forward a detailed request to start the machinery agreed at the Florence summit in June. "I don't see any need to depart from what was agreed upon," he said. "I think we need to move forward step by step as agreed."

That means that a British request, probably to ease the ban on grass-fed herds certi-

fied as BSE-free, must pass through various committees including the Standing Veterinary Committee. At best, that could take weeks.

Euro-sceptics were glum about the announcement, seeing it as another U-turn in the face of Brussels pressure. John Townend said: "Many of us just don't trust our European friends and we think they are going to keep this ban going for year after year."

But Sir David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, welcomed the announcement, while calling for extra financial help for farmers who would lose a substantial proportion of their herds.

"We are not happy at the idea of many thousands of healthy animals being culled," he said. "But we have long accepted that the Florence agreement had to be honoured by Britain and that this was the only way to start lifting the export ban."

A few farmers could lose up to half or more of their herds under the selective cull. Under the proposals published last July, the Government envisaged paying the market price for culled cattle with extra money for farmers who lose 10 per cent or more of their herds. The Treasury will pick up £90

million of the compensation bill and the EU the rest.

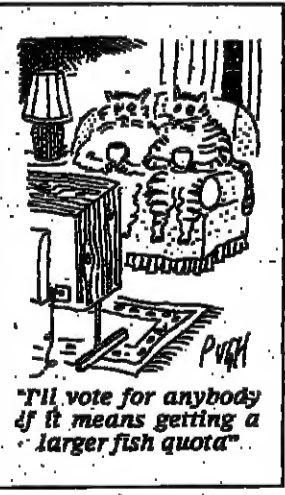
The decision to go ahead with the cull after all was announced as ministers tried to avoid a defeat in last night's Commons vote on fishing, where the result appeared to hinge on the Ulster Unionists. They were pleased by the beef decision but unimpressed by assurances that ministers would seek higher fish quotas for Northern Ireland.

The decision also coincided with the Prime Minister's report on the European summit in Dublin, in which he told MPs that the Community was facing a "moment of truth". It was a delusion to think that Britain could exist outside the EU, but the country under his leadership would have no part of Franco-German plans that would lead to an "embryonic superstate".

He signalled that radical changes proposed by some members would be either blocked or would go ahead without British involvement. The choices over the next few months would determine not only the success and stability of Europe as a whole, but Britain's relationship with it.

Although he criticised those who "peddled the delusion" that Britain could leave the EU, John Major appeared to hint at an inner core of countries went ahead with elements of political union that Britain opposed. "Those who want to integrate further in particular areas should not be frustrated unreasonably although, if they wish to use EU institutions (such as the European Court of Justice), they can only proceed through unanimity. Those who do not must not be forced into unwished for obligations which build up resentment."

Matthew Parris and BSE about-turn, page 2
Leading article, page 15



"I'll vote for anybody if it means getting a larger fish quota"



Mark Boyden and Princess Zahra: they met in France two years ago and are expected to marry in the summer

Aga Khan's daughter to wed Briton

By Carol Midgley and Susan Bell

PRINCESS Zahra, the only daughter of the Aga Khan, has become engaged to a farmer's son from Dorset, it was announced yesterday.

Mark Boyden, 35, a management consultant who is also involved with his parents' farming business, met the princess through friends two years ago in France. They are expected to marry next summer.

The Aga Khan announced the engagement yesterday in a notice issued by his secretary in Aiglemont, near Chantilly, France. Mr Boyden's mother, Patricia, said: "We are delighted, very happy indeed, but we have been asked to refer all queries to the Aga Khan's office."

Speaking at the family farm in Cheselborne, Dorchester,

from where their business, Boyden Brothers, is run, Mrs Boyden added that she and her husband John knew the princess well. "We don't yet know the date for the wedding though," she said.

Mr Boyden is a former pupil of the now defunct Dartington Hall School, in Dartington, Devon. He studied business administration at Oxford Brookes University, focusing particularly on business ethics and human rights, before becoming a management consultant.

Princess Zahra, 26, the oldest of the Aga Khan and Princess Salimah's three children, has worked for her father, leader of the world's four million Ismaili Muslims and directly descended from the Prophet Mohammed,

since graduating from Harvard University in 1994.

The announcement said she was "actively involved in social development activities, focusing particularly on women's development and the provision of safety nets for the very poor in Africa and Asia."

She and Mr Boyden will divide their time between England and France and the princess will continue to work for her father.

Recently she followed in his footsteps by becoming involved in racehorse ownership, registering her own dark green and brown colours. Her parents divorced last year with an estimated £50 million settlement for her mother, the former model Sally Croker-Poole, 56. Mr Boyden has one older sister, Jo, who is under-

stood to be working as an academic in Oxford.

Princess Zahra has two brothers, Prince Rahim, 25, and Prince Hussain, 22. A family friend was once quoted as saying: "Zahra has easily the nicest personality of the three children and while Rahim will eventually succeed their father she will be a great asset. She has a tremendous sense of humour and is a lot of fun to be with."

Formula 1 in chaos, page 40

Williams car chiefs face trial for death of Senna

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

FRANK WILLIAMS, head of the Formula One Williams team, is to be tried for the manslaughter of Ayrton Senna, the Brazilian world champion, who was killed in the San Marino Grand Prix two and a half years ago.

State prosecutors in Bologna announced the charges yesterday against Mr Williams, along with Patrick Head, the company's technical director, and Adrian Newey, the chief designer. They will stand trial on February 20. Also charged with manslaughter are Federico Bendinelli, the Imola race track director, Giorgio Poggi, a former track official, and Roland Bruynseraede, the international race director. All deny the charges.

Under Italian law the accused stand to receive sentences of between six months and five years in prison if convicted. Maurizio Passarini, the Bologna public prosecutor, recommended the prosecution in a preliminary report in June, after a two-year inquest. Bologna magistrates accepted his arguments.

Senna died on May 1 1994 when he took the Tamborello turn at the Imola race track at 188 mph. A technical experts' report said the steering column on his car had been "modified" shortly before the race to give him more space behind the wheel. The report said the metal used was of a different thickness to the original high resistance material, and had snapped.

Senna's car hit the wall of the track and he suffered fatal head injuries. Part of the forward suspension pierced his helmet "as if he had been shot by a bullet", the investigators report said.

Judges urged to quit Freemasons

Judges are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after fresh evidence on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary. The information has been gathered by the 500-strong Association of Women Barristers. Page 4

Threat to shares

Halifax Building Society shares could be hit by a FTSE 100 listing delay. Page 21

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The Times on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



Smoking fathers may cause cancer

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

ONE in seven of all childhood cancers may be caused by fathers who smoke, a new study has shown. The more a man smokes, the greater the risk becomes.

Strong evidence of the damaging effects of smoking has come from data gathered more than 40 years ago and re-examined by a team from Birmingham University. It showed a "highly significant" association between fathers who smoked and children who died of cancer, says Dr Tom Sorahan of the university.

ty's Institute of Occupational Health. The assumption is that smoking causes cancer in children by damaging their father's sperm.

"Men smoking less than ten cigarettes a day have a 3 per cent higher chance of fathering a child who dies of cancer," Dr Sorahan said yesterday. "For those smoking between 10 and 20 cigarettes a day, the increased risk is 31 per cent, and it rises to 42 per cent for fathers who smoke more than 20 a day."

Anti-smoking campaigners

seized on the new figures. A spokeswoman for Action on Smoking and Health said: "Women have known for a long time that by smoking during pregnancy they are damaging the health of their unborn babies. Now men will have to accept that by smoking they are not only putting their own health at risk, but also that of their children as well."

The tobacco industry is likely to argue that the increased risk is so small as to be statistically meaningless. Last summer Philip Morris Europe

ran an advertising campaign arguing that passive smoking — the risks of which are of the same order as those found by the new study — is not a proper cause for concern.

Sir Richard Doll of Oxford University, the doyen of smoking studies who first linked smoking to lung cancer, was cautious in interpreting the results. "It's a good study, but the statistics are not all that compelling," he said. "Other studies on the subject have

Continued on page 2, col 5

Sir Laurens, mentor to Prince, dies

Sir Laurens van der Post, the writer, explorer, mystic and a major influence on the Prince of Wales, has died two days after his ninetieth birthday, (Alan Hamilton writes).

The Prince's office said last night that he had been "deeply saddened" by the death of a dear and long-standing friend, Lucia Crichton-Miller. Sir Laurens's daughter, said her father died at his London home on Sunday.

Obituary, page 17

Amis switches publishers in mid-contract for £1m

By Daiya Alberge and Jason Cowley

MARTIN AMIS has fallen out with the publishing house that offered him a record-breaking £500,000 contract less than a year ago. He has signed a four-book deal with his original publisher, Jonathan Cape, an imprint of Random House, thought to be worth considerably more than £1 million.

The deal catapults Amis into the super league of British millionaire novelists headed by Jeffrey Archer, Jackie Collins and Salman Rushdie. He surprised the

literary world yesterday by announcing his split with HarperCollins, even though he is yet to fulfil his promised two-book contract. It was unclear whether he would still have to deliver to HarperCollins a volume of short stories.

The move was orchestrated by Andrew Wylie, the New York agent known in the trade as The Jackal. He has upset many by luring Amis away from his original agency, Peter, Fraser and Dunlop. Sources close to the agency said it was highly unorthodox for an author to break such a contract "especially as the original negotiations surrounding it were so

acrimonious". One observed: "The real victim is HarperCollins. There are many fine nuances at play, involving writers' ego, testosterone and literary envy. Martin never used to be that interested in money. I hear things have changed."

An alternative view was provided by Louis Baum, the editor of *The BookSELLER*: "It may be that because *The Information* did not perform as well as HarperCollins hoped — in other words, sales haven't earned back its advance — the publishing house was unwilling to commit itself to extending itself to such a long contract with Amis."



Amis: four-book deal with Jonathan Cape

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Parents denied choice of schools

BY JOHN O'LEARY
AND DAVID CHARTER

MILLIONS of pounds are being wasted and tens of thousands of parents denied their first choice of school because of inefficiencies in the allocation of school places, government spending watchdogs will disclose today.

A highly critical report by the Audit Commission will say there is a wasteful mismatch between pupils and places, with one in six less than three-quarters full but one in three filled beyond capacity. The commission estimates that more than 300,000 empty places could be removed, releasing cash for other

purposes. The report, *Trading Places*, represents the first systematic examination of one of the main planks of the Government's education policy. The commission says there is little real choice for parents in many areas and popular schools are not expanding to cope with demand. The report concludes: "Local authorities' attempts at intervention and management are hampered — sometimes by their own poor performance, but also by the defects of the national policy framework."

"Tackling the current shortcomings will require effort at both a local and a national level. These efforts could yield both financial savings, ultimately around £100 million."

A survey of ten local authorities found that almost one in five parents did not get their "genuine first preference" state secondary school in September 1995. The number of appeals was found to have increased by 44 per cent in the past three years.

Surplus provision should be removed if a school is less than 75 per cent full, the report says. Parents should be given better information on all schools in their area and schools should be monitored closely so that agencies can intervene before financial problems mount in unpopular schools. The commission makes clear that the market system set up by successive Acts on education has worked against the interests of

parents. It urges the Government to act to mend the "defects" of current policies. It says: "The desired outcomes of economy, efficiency and effectiveness, as well as the satisfaction of parental choice, will not be achieved automatically by the operation of the market alone."

The commission says there are many areas which could be improved and sets out a 14-point plan, with more than half the measures aimed at improving the performance of local authorities. Among these is a call for scrapping sixth forms with fewer than 150 students if local agreements on collaboration and sharing of facilities cannot be reached in the search to cut costs.

The ten local authorities studied in depth for the study were the city councils of Birmingham and Leeds, the boroughs of Doncaster, Kingston-upon-Thames and Southwark, and the counties of Essex, Lancashire, Mid-Glamorgan, Northumberland and Warwickshire.

The report points out that government spending has not matched its much vaunted policy of enabling popular schools to expand. "In most circumstances, the Department for Education's capital allocation procedures do not provide funds for adding capacity to popular schools in England where there are unfilled places in neighbouring schools — even if these are of a different type."

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Major turns to government by confusion

In our frenzy over the detail of Tory policy, we are missing something more important: the creative genius of our Prime Minister. By stealth he is abandoning the ancient doctrine of collective Cabinet responsibility.

It is quite refreshing. Other leaders pretend they have a frontbench position on important questions, but John Major hardly bothers. Yesterday, quizzed by Tony Blair on the Government's latest cattle cull, Mr Major repeated what has long been his line: that BSE policy is led by "the science". He murmured something about "changed scientific evidence" on maternal transmission to calves. "The science" had changed, so the policy had changed.

Not many minutes later Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, was on his feet, offering his own explanation for the increased cattle slaughter. It had little to do with science, Mr Hogg said. "The real justification for the cull is that unless we do the cull we will not get progress on lifting the ban. That is a political fact, not a scientific fact."

Mr Major says one thing: Mr Blair was vexed about the confusion and used it to some effect in the House yesterday, mocking what he called the "serial incompetence" of the Government. But the chamber was half-empty and the press gallery listless. "Hell," we thought, "this is all such a mess, and anyway it's nearly Christmas." Pencils dropped.

If, in a through-the-looking-glass world, key figures keep contradicting each other, there is only so much mileage to be had from pointing this out. After a while we tire of demonstrating what has already been demonstrated — that different voices are saying different things — and give up. Mr Major just keeps throwing sand in people's eyes until they take their buckets and

spades and quit the beach, leaving him alone with his sandcastle, which was what he wanted all along.

He seemed to be adopting this tactic on a broad front yesterday. Adopting his Mystic Meg voice and speaking in a strangely relaxed near-monotone, he told Euro-sceptic and Euro-phobic side-tuggers (variously) that he would brook no fudging from Europe; that Britain's whole relationship with Europe was in the balance; that it wasn't; and that he absolutely shared the worries of backbench colleague David Wiltshire (Spelthorne) about anti-European feeling.

Ray Whitney (C. Wycombe) is so Europhile that he sounds like a simultaneous translation from French. To Mr Major's delight he commended to him a mysterious "middle way" called "realistic British Europeanism".

Sir Teddy Taylor (C. Southend E) is so rabidly Europhobic that he turns up all but wiping the foam flecks from his mouth. He welcomed the Prime Minister's resolve to have no truck with EU demands. Mr Major agreed this was "essential".

Within minutes of each other, Sir Patrick Cormack (C. Stuffs S) and Edward Leigh (C. Gainsborough & Horncastle) had congratulated him warmly over Europe. Sir Patrick and Mr Leigh do not inhabit the same planet. Either the Prime Minister has two European policies or one of these gentlemen has misunderstood the policy he does have.

In fact they both misunderstood. Mr Major may have a view, but none of us has the least idea what it is. We find ourselves confronted by him as in a canyon we might be confronted by the rock face. The rock keeps its counsel. We hear only strange, mocking echoes of our own opinions.

About-turn on BSE meets EU conditions

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S agreement to carry out a selective cattle cull means that the Government has formally met all the conditions set at the EU summit in Florence in June for easing the ban on British beef.

At Florence the Government undertook to slaughter and destroy up to 147,000 cattle identified as being at particular risk of developing BSE. These were cattle born between 1989 and 1993 and reared on the same infected feed as animals that have died of BSE.

In September, the Cabinet had shelved plans for the cull, citing new scientific evidence that BSE would die out naturally around 2001 and that the slaughter would do little if anything to bring this date nearer. The Government has

now been forced to return to much the same plan it rejected only three months ago. One difference, as Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, told the Commons, is that only about 100,000 cattle will need to be culled because about 50,000 of those targeted in June have already been killed in the separate slaughter of animals over 30 months old.

Some 1.1 million older cattle have been destroyed since early May to reassure consumers that only young beef, the least likely to have been exposed to BSE, is entering the food chain.

Under the 30-month scheme, farmers can keep cows on their farms until the end of their working lives. Under the selective cull, which could affect about 2,000 herds,

any targeted animal will be removed immediately. The selective cull is expected to cost about £150 million gross, with a net cost to the Treasury of £90 million. That reflects partial funding by the rest of the European Union and savings from having to kill fewer animals than once thought.

The figure comes on top of more than £1 billion already being spent this year on the cull of older cattle and related aid and compensation. However, it is already clear that it will be months before the selective cull begins.

□ About 800 French cattle breeders ransacked Dutch and Irish trucks and burnt cargoes of veal in Paris to back their demands for more European Union aid in coping with the BSE crisis.



Victoria Lowther, who died after a swift decline in health over four months

CJD blamed for girl's death

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

A YOUNG woman is thought to be the latest person to have died from the new variant strain of CJD blamed on eating BSE-infected meat, especially beefburgers.

Victoria Lowther, 19, the daughter of a hotel owner in Carlisle, Cumbria, died last month in a hospice four months after first complaining of repeated headaches. From a bright, pretty teenager heading for university, she quickly degenerated into an invalid,

bound to a wheelchair and dependent on carers.

The catastrophic decline in her health is consistent with the symptoms of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which has younger people with devastating results. The Department of Health said last night that there were 14 confirmed cases of the variant strain, which government scientists have linked to "mad cow" disease. Two of the confirmed cases are still alive.

Every new case raises fears of an epidemic among young-

sters who ate cheap beef products in the late 1980s. Miss Lowther had no connection with cattle or meat production.

At first she was treated at the neurology unit of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne. Doctors allowed her to go home after they told her there was nothing more they could do for her.

Ian Morton, the coroner for North-East Cumbria, said he was satisfied that CJD was the cause of Miss Lowther's illness. He has decided not to hold an inquest into her death.

UK public borrowing 'too high for Emu'

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S public borrowing is expected to be too high to qualify for membership of the European single currency, even if it decided that it wanted to join, according to an influential think-tank.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development said in its latest economic outlook that, on the European definition of public borrowing, Britain's deficit next year is likely to amount to 3.7 per cent of gross domestic product. This is above the 3 per cent limit laid down in the Maastricht Treaty.

Borrowing is forecast to fall to about the required 3 per cent level by 1998 but 1997 is the test year which will count when the euro "ins" and "outs" are decided.

Val Koromay, the OECD's deputy director of the economic outlook, said the latest public borrowing projections had been made before last month's Budget but that the Chancellor's package of measures changed the figures only marginally. He said Britain's deficit was destined to be a "substantial way above" the Maastricht level.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, welcomed the report, which was optimistic on the outlook for growth, inflation and unemployment, but he did not respond to the OECD's pessimism on the public finances.

Germany may also miss the deficit limit, albeit by a smaller margin, according to the latest forecast by the Ifo economic institute in Munich. Ifo said it expects the German deficit to be 3.2 per cent of GDP in 1997.

The OECD's judgment on Britain's public finances is far less upbeat than the Chancellor's view at Budget time when he said that it was a "lucky coincidence" that Britain's deficit would come down to within the Maastricht Treaty limits on cue in 1997.

Male smokers should quit before conception

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttard

THE report on the analysis of the lifestyle of the families of children who develop cancer will make worrying reading for parents, particularly fathers. It has always been reassuring, as a doctor, to be able to explain to parents that the cause of such cancers is usually unknown, but it is thought to be no fault of their own. These bland words are now to be denied us when comforting a father who smokes, as it may be that he disastrously damaged the genetic material in his own sperm, thereby leading to the malignancy.

Sperm are more easily influenced by toxins than is usually supposed. Despite their ability to swim so far, and against such odds, they are very fragile. Scientists have detected an increased number of abnormal forms, deterioration in numbers, less motility and less purposeful movement in the sperm of men who drink alcohol to excess and, which has also been reported, in those who smoke cannabis.

It may be that, in both these instances, tobacco smoked while drinking, or with hashish, is of greater importance than has hitherto been realised. Any effect on a baby of

these substances when taken by the mother is presumably the result of an adverse effect on the developing foetus, whereas when abnormalities are the result of the lifestyle of the male the influence is on the genetic structure of the sperm.

Sperm are constantly being manufactured and the process is continuous, whereas a woman is born with her full complement of ova; therefore, the good news is that if the man stops smoking some months before conception there is every likelihood that his fertilising sperm will be as healthy as those of his non-smoking neighbour.

It is suggested that the effect of tobacco smoking on spermatogenesis may be the result of free radicals, those sinister, marauding, unattached electrons which can be so damaging to a wide variety of human

tissues. Greater consumption well before pregnancy is contemplated of anti-oxidants — vitamins C and E — and the carotenoids, as well as folic acid, which neutralise the free radicals, is a wise precaution, whether the parents are smokers or not.

The dangers to young children of having parents who smoke are already well documented. The mother who smokes during pregnancy is reported to have smaller, less intelligent babies, with all the attendant risks. If either partner continues to smoke after delivery, the children are more likely to have asthma, upper respiratory tract infections and to die from cot death. To these potential dangers will now have to be added childhood cancer, if the father has not given up his cigarettes several months before conception.

Sperm 'may cause cancer'

Continued from page 1 reached different conclusions.

The new figures are drawn from the Oxford Survey of Childhood Cancers, which was started in the 1950s by Dr Alice Stewart. Now aged 90, she is a co-author of the new study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*.

Dr Stewart set out to interview the parents of every child in England, Scotland and Wales who died of cancer under the age of 16. The study relates to 1,952 cancer deaths in the years 1953-55, and is based on interviews with the parents of 83.6 per cent of them. The results were compared with a matched group of parents of healthy children.

The study shows that a mother's smoking habits do not influence their children's risk of getting cancer, but that

a father's do. For a wide range of cancers, including leukaemia, neuroblastoma and bone cancer, the risks are increased.

The relationship holds good even when possible confounding factors such as class, age, and exposure of the mother to X-rays during pregnancy are taken into account, Dr Sorahan said.

"Smoking is already believed to alter the DNA of some sperm and our new findings suggest that it could lead to cancer-causing mutations," he said.

Whether today's milder cigarettes are having as great an effect as those smoked in the 1950s is uncertain.

Nor is it clear how soon a man would have to give up smoking to protect a future child.

Dr Sorahan said, "and smoking increases that risk by 20-30 per cent."

Professor Richard Peto of Oxford University said that smokers spend their lives bathed in chemicals capable of causing genetic changes, so it would not be surprising if such chemicals damaged sperm.

Professor Gordon McVie, Director General of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "We already know that the majority of childhood cancers are caused by factors which occur prior to birth and it seems plausible that paternal smoking could be one of them."

The *British Journal of Cancer* also reports that breathing a mixture of oxygen and carbon dioxide can increase the potency of anti-cancer drugs.

"not sure which rewards programme is the best"



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Hospital gave prostate drug to woman with cramp



Graham: seeking inquiry into hospital's mistake

By Emma Wilkins
A PREGNANT woman who was admitted to hospital suffering stomach cramps was given a drug meant for men suffering prostate problems, it emerged yesterday. Pamela Graham, who is eight weeks pregnant, will have to wait until her baby is born to discover if it has suffered any damage.

Mrs Graham, an auxiliary community nurse from Redruth, Cornwall, called for an inquiry after Treliske Hospital apologised for the mistake. "My major concern is for my baby. I am not interested in any compensation for myself, but these mistakes should not occur," Mrs Graham said.

When she was admitted to the hospital earlier this month, Mrs Graham was initially given a bed in the men's section of a mixed ward before staff moved her next to other women.

Mrs Graham, who trained at the hospital five years ago, asked to be prescribed folic acid — a recommended supplement she had been taking for her baby's wellbeing. But she was given a tablet of Tamsulosin, a drug designed to alleviate prostate problems by relaxing the neck of the bladder. Mrs Graham took one tablet and was given six more to take over the week but a staff nurse realised that a mistake had been made before she took any.

Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, which runs Treliske Hospital, admitted the error and apologised. It is the latest in a series of blunders at the hospital, where a baby was sent home last year with a hypodermic needle in his back.

Mrs Graham has been told it is unlikely that her baby will be harmed but doctors cannot be sure until after the birth in August. She said: "Initially I was extremely angry but very quickly this turned into absolute disbelief. I am hoping that an inquiry will not only reinstate confidence in Treliske Hospital but will also prevent any further problems occurring in the future."

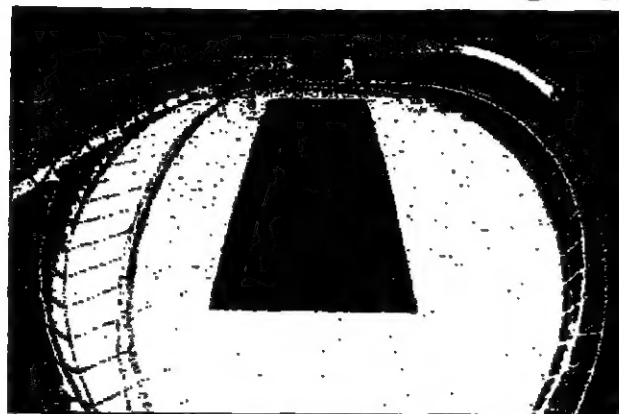
Wembley beats rivals to £100m lottery prize

By Marcus Binney

THE Sports Council will announce today that London has won the greatest lottery prize of all, the £180 million project for a new national football and athletics stadium at Wembley.

The winning design by Sir Norman Foster spines the existing pitch through 90 degrees so that the famous twin towers loom behind the northern goalmouth. The change involves moving the towers slightly further down Olympic Way.

The lottery grant is likely to be more than £100 million. The Sports Council has spent months considering competing bids from Wembley and Manchester, but after the Football Association, the Football League and the FA Premier League came out in favour of Wembley, the choice of London was not seriously in doubt.



Norman Foster plans to turn the stadium through 90 degrees, so the twin towers are behind one goal



The Foster stadium bowl is swept up dramatically along the sides to create an undulating silhouette, with a wide translucent roof, complementing the white towers surviving from the 1924 Empire Exhibition. The outer skin of the stadium will be a colourful wall of constantly moving laser images, projected from within, and concealing the ugly underside of the seats, which has turned many stadiums into architectural eyesores.

The design will be refined over the next six months with a view to submitting a detailed application to the Sports Council's lottery board. If the final go-ahead is given in the summer, work can begin on the site in June 1998, with completion by January 2000.

panels would be parked just under the fixed roof, above the seating, and drawn out over the field by a pulley system. The process would take approximately 15 minutes. For athletics, the panels could be opened out further at the end, also allowing maximum sunlight from the south on to the grass pitch.

The expense of the roof will need to be balanced against need. Most Wembley games are in spring and summer and, in recent years, only one or two winter events would have benefited from a roof. The stadium will seat 80,000 for football and rugby league and 75,000 for athletics. Retractable seats cantilevered out over the running track will bring spectators closer to the football pitch than ever before.

A spokesman for Sir Norman said: "Every seat will have unobstructed views. Two thirds will have arm rests, a feature once restricted to VIP enclosures. Excellent knee-room will allow people to pass seated spectators along every row of seats. Seating will take ten minutes to clear and no one will be further than 13ft from an exit."

Concourses on three levels will have large action-replay screens. Disabled access will be provided to all areas and a fully equipped hospital will be installed.



How the stadium would look from Olympic Way. The towers will be moved slightly to accommodate the design

transport. London Transport will increase the capacity of Wembley Park Underground station to 50,000 an hour. Wembley has set up a trust to build the stadium, leaving the existing owners, Wembley Stadium Ltd, as potential managing agents. Though the matching funds needed are

larger than for any other lottery project apart from the Millennium Festival, Wembley is confident that the potential for corporate entertainment and sponsorship will ensure a flow of private investment.

Plans for a Millennium Tower in the City of London, which would be Europe's tallest building and dwarf the Canary Wharf tower, have been attacked by the Royal Fine Art Commission. The 1,265ft tower, intended for the site of the bomb-damaged Baltic Exchange, was described by the commission as "simply out of scale". The

commission's chairman, Lord St John of Fawsley, wrote to Sir Norman Foster, who designed the tower, explaining that the organisation could not back the scheme. A spokesman for Foster and Partners had no comment.

Football, page 36

Bishop refuses to preach in cathedral at Christmas

By Russell Jenkins

THE Bishop of Lincoln is refusing to set foot inside his cathedral this Christmas in protest at the continuing feud between the dean and sub-dean.

The Right Rev Robert Hardy traditionally joins the carol singers on Christmas Eve and preaches from the pulpit on Christmas Day. However, he has made it clear through his office that he cannot be seen alongside the Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, and the Sub-dean, Canon Rex Davis.

The feud has its origins in a troubled exhibition of the Magna Carta organised by the cathedral in Australia, which lost £56,000 in 1988. Dr Jackson was appointed in 1989 and has been at loggerheads with his sub-dean ever since.

Dr Jackson, 62, was cleared last year by a Consistory Court of allegations of sexual impropriety with Verity Freestone, a vergier. His lawyers recently argued in court that



Bishop Hardy: boycott is gesture of despair

he should not have to answer a civil action arising from the allegations. In recent months Dr Jackson has ignored calls by canons in the diocese for him to go.

bishop of Canterbury, who has called the feud a "scandal dishonouring the name of the Lord", has called on both men to leave their posts for the good of the Church. Dr Jackson has said he is prepared to go if the sub-dean leaves, but Canon Davis has so far given no indication that he is willing to quit.

It is traditional that bishops throughout England preach during the period of Advent in their cathedrals, usually on Christmas Day. One church insider said that the bishop's decision was a symbolic gesture of his despair.

Canon Raymond Rodger, Bishop Hardy's personal assistant, said: "The Archbishop of Canterbury has asked the dean and the sub-dean to leave. That call was reinforced by 124 votes to four by the diocesan synod and also by the majority of the general chapter. For these reasons the bishop feels that it would be inappropriate for him to be seen with these people while they are 'disobeying the archbishop'."

Bomb pair jailed for 20 years

By Stewart Tindler

TWO Palestinian science graduates who used their education to build bombs were jailed for 20 years each at the Old Bailey yesterday for plotting to blow up the Israeli Embassy and a Jewish charity.

Sentencing Samar Alami, 30, and Jawad Botmeh, 27, Mr Justice Garland said that the terrorist acts had caused millions of pounds of damage. The bombs were set off in London the day after Israel and Jordan signed a peace declaration.

A middle-aged woman left a car bomb near the embassy and that evening a bomb exploded outside the charity's offices. The Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group Palestine said it was responsible.

The court was told that Alami, of South Kensington, and Botmeh, of Bloomsbury, wished to hinder the peace process. Yesterday the judge said that their actions "did not advance the Palestinian cause. I have to pass sentences for what you did, not your motives."

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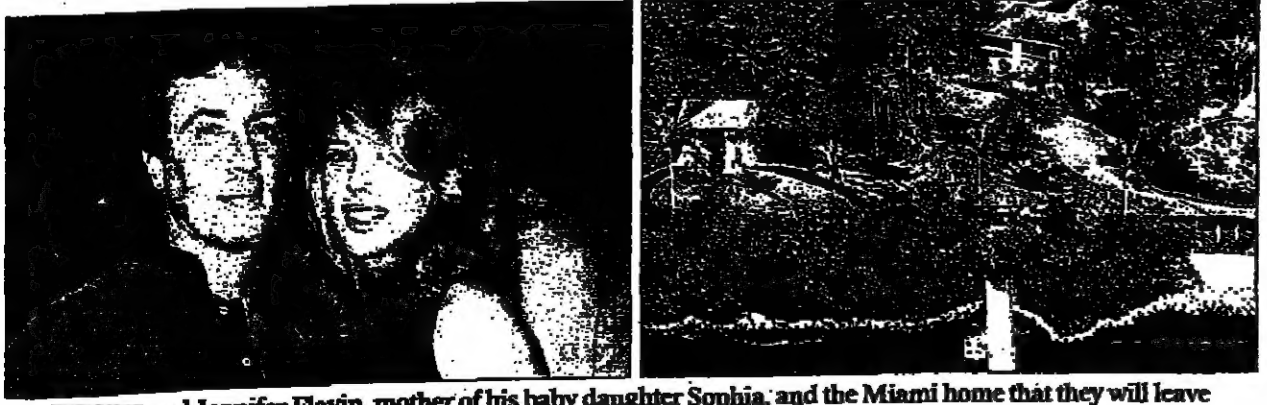
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Stallone and Jennifer Flavin, mother of his baby daughter Sophia, and the Miami home that they will leave

Rambo flees Miami vice for London

By Damian Whitworth

SYLVESTER STALLONE, the muscled hard man of Hollywood action films, is to flee America for a new life in London. He said he was not prepared to bring up his daughter, now three months old, in crime-ridden Miami.

"My home town, Miami, is beautiful — but it has become extremely dangerous. I want my daughter to be safe and to have the best possible education and she just won't get that in the States. Miami has one of the worst education records in America. The European system seems to be so far ahead. A private education in Britain would give her the best opportunities in the best surroundings. I'm not going to wait until she's older. We'll move to London soon."

The Rambo star, who joins a cross-Atlantic drift of other American actors, such as Tom Cruise, often visits Wentworth Golf Club in Surrey when he is in Britain. Stallone, 50, is due to give evidence soon in the trial of one of his former security guards for the attempted murder of another guard in the grounds of his home. "I have the best security money can buy but it's still not enough. I just don't want my family exposed to those kind of dangers. I know there's crime everywhere but I want to go somewhere where the risks are less," he told The Sun.

Stallone said he would move when Sophia, his daughter by Jennifer Flavin, 28, has fully recovered from surgery for a hole in the heart.

سكرا على المصالح

Shot man's family 'stuck for motive'

By Emma Wilkins

THE son of a businessman who was shot dead outside the family home said yesterday that his father was a "wonderful, caring and hard-working" man.

Police believe Richard Watson, 54, a computer consultant with business interests in eastern Europe, may have been the victim of a contract killing. However, his son Julian, 28, who worked for his father's company, said the family could find no possible motive for the murder.

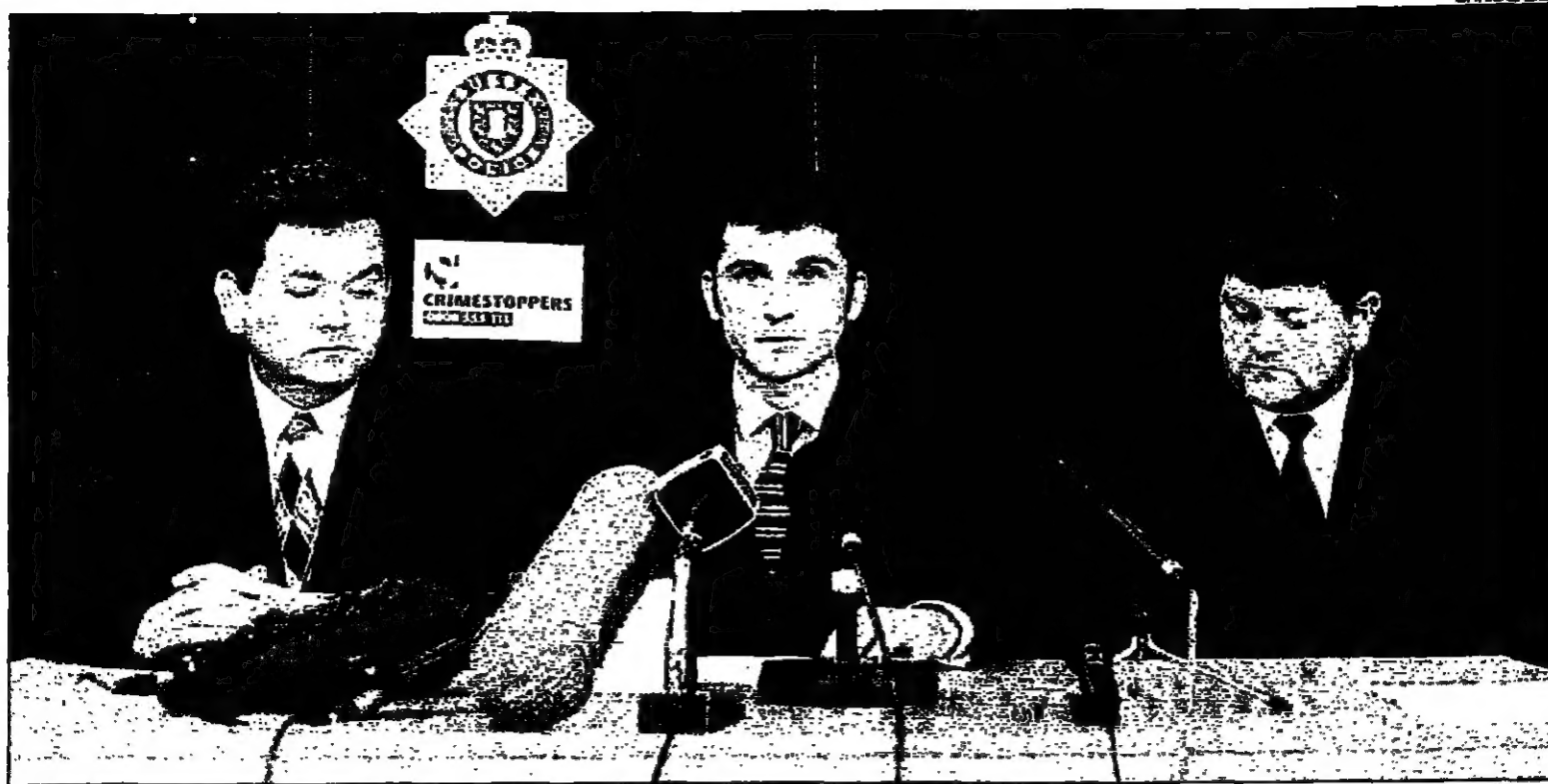
Mr Watson said his father had been in a cheerful mood hours before he was shot in the chest in the driveway of the family farmhouse in East Oxley, near West Sussex, last week. "He seemed very happy," he said.

"The family have no idea

why Dad was murdered. We appeal to anybody who has any information about this murder to contact the police. Somebody, somewhere, must know something."

Detective Superintendent Paul Westwood, who is leading the inquiry, said Mr Watson's business and financial affairs were being investigated. He was a director of one company which went into liquidation, while another was dissolved. Weeks before he was killed, he was attacked with a stun gun by two men wearing balaclavas.

"Although we have no definite information about a motive, it would be foolish to disregard any possibility, including the possibility this was a professional hit," Mr Westwood said.



Julian Watson, flanked by detectives, speaking about his father, who seemed "very happy" shortly before he was shot dead at his home

More than 30 in the judiciary are members of brotherhood, women barristers tell MPs

Judges 'should resign as Masons or admit status'

By Frances Gibb and Bill Frost

JUDGES are facing calls to resign from the Freemasons, or at least publicly state their membership, after evidence to MPs on the extent of the "brotherhood" within the judiciary.

More than 30 judges have been identified from those listed as high-ranking or "Grand" officers in the latest Masonic Year Book (1996-97). They include Lord Justice Millett, one of the top Chancery judges in the Court of Appeal, and the High Court judges Mr Justice Chadwick and Mr Justice Toulson.

Retired judges include a law lord, Lord Templeman, and the former Court of Appeal judge, Sir John Balcombe and Sir Edward Rieupey and the former High Court judge Sir Maurice Drake. His Honour Lawrence Verney, QC, the Recorder of London, and His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, (retired), are also both listed in the yearbook.

Sir Frederick Crawford,



Lord Justice Millett: listed as Freemason

who has been appointed chairman of the new body to review miscarriages of justice — the Criminal Cases Review Authority — is also a senior Freemason.

The Association of Women Barristers, which has compiled the information, is recommending to the Commons Home Affairs Committee that anyone appointed a judge be required to resign membership of the Freemasonry or at least disclose it publicly. The MPs start their inquiry into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary tomorrow, under Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, MP.

Josephine Hayes, chair of the association, said there were probably far more judges who were Freemasons than those identified, particularly at the lower levels, but only high-ranking officers were named in the 1996-97 handbook. It was difficult to obtain information, she said.

"We think that in principle

that for judges to be Freemasons is damaging and detrimental to public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary and also to the system of judicial appointment and appointment to silk."

There was some anecdotal evidence of public concern, she added. Clients had on occa-

sion expressed worries — albeit unjustified — that a judge hearing their case might be a Freemason when they knew their opponent also to be one.

Second, women barristers had concerns that because the system of appointment to the judiciary depended on "secret soundings", the network afforded by Freemasonry gave members a means through which they could meet senior judges which was not open to women candidates. Such contacts were all the more important now that the practicing Bar had grown to more than 8,000 and judges no longer knew candidates personally.

BROTHERS IN LAW

Judges, either sitting or retired who are listed in the 1996/97 Masonic Year Book include:

□ (Among the officers of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch-Masons of England) Judge John Lionel Sessions (grand registrar); and His Honour Judge Michael Bradley Goodman (first assistant grand sejourner).

□ (On the panel of the Freemasons' Commission for Appeals Courts) Sir Edward Edey, the retired Court of Appeal judge; Sir Maurice Drake, the retired High Court judge; Lord Justice Millett, a Court of Appeal judge; Mr Justice

Chadwick, the High Court judge and His Honour Sir William Stubb, QC.

□ (On the procedure committee): Sir John Balcombe, retired Court of Appeal judge.

□ Other listed members are: His Honour Aunty-Davies, QC; Judge Gerald Coles, QC; Judge Peter Copley; Judge Brian Galpin; His Honour Alan Garbutt; Judge Michael Goodman; His Honour John E. Jones; His Honour Alexander Karmel, QC; His Honour King-Hamilton, QC; Judge Reginald Lockett; District Judge Seymour Samuels; Sir Christopher Slade (retired Court of Appeal judge); Judge Peter Slot; Judge David Smith; Sir John Stocker (retired Court of Appeal judge).

judges and members of the Bar in a way denied to non-members, and offer the loyalty pledges they allegedly give each other. Since women are prohibited from becoming full members — at least of all the mainstream lodges — then it is in principle discriminatory.

The association points out that there are a significant number of Masons' lodges for lawyers. The value of lodge membership was all the greater, Ms Hayes added, now that increasing numbers of cases were heard by senior Queens' Counsel sitting part-time as deputy High Court judges.

Chief constables have called on officers and civilian staff openly to register their position in the Freemasonry. The Association of Chief Police Officers has also urged the Home Office to legislate for officers to register their membership of any organisation that demands a bond of loyalty.

The Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday that would-be judges were not asked about membership of the Freemasonry. A spokesman said: "The Lord Chancellor believes as a matter of principle that people should

be free to join any lawful organisation, including Freemasonry, if they wish to. They have to swear the judicial oath [to 'do right to all manner of people after the laws and usages of this realm without fear or favour, affection or ill will'] and having done that, he feels there is no conflict of interest."

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, told MPs during a previous inquiry into judicial appointments that he had asked senior officials in his department if they were Freemasons and they had said they were not.

Two jailed for attack on 88-year-old widow

By Tim Jones

TWO men who attacked an 88-year-old widow who survived a Nazi slave labour camp were jailed yesterday. A jury at Derby Crown Court was told that Lakwinder Singh Sohal had boasted that he planned to pay for a relative's wedding by targeting a wealthy widow and raping her during a robbery.

His victim was Parvina Honczaruk, who had been seen by Sohal and his friend, Madam Lal Dass, drawing her pension and £4,000 life savings from her local post office at Peartree, Derby. She had intended to give most of the money to her church to care for less fortunate people.

Sohal, 34, who denied the charges, was convicted of indecent assault, robbery and two charges of grievous bodily harm. Dass, 45, who also pleaded not guilty, was convicted of grievous bodily harm and robbery. Sohal was jailed for 18 years and Dass for ten.

Judge Brian Appleby, QC, said that, for brutal and sadistic behaviour, it was the worst case he had encountered since joining the Bar in 1953. "Mrs Honczaruk was a gentle,

nice lady who found pleasure and comfort in her house and possessions, companionship in her church," he said.

"That day she had drawn out her savings, a large part of which she was to give to the church to care for those she considered more needy than herself. Then you broke in and subjected her to an assault so brutal and sadistic as it is possible to imagine."

"So battered and bleeding was she that she couldn't defend herself though she tried. You left her when she might have bled to death, taking with you the few possessions which gave her pleasure. You have destroyed that lady's life."

The court was told that Mrs Honczaruk, underwent surgery after the attack, but had lost the will to live and had expressed the wish to die.

During the hearing she had suffered, one of Mrs Honczaruk's teeth had snapped off and lodged in her throat and one of her ears was almost ripped off. She had bruising to her face, neck, shoulder, chest, arms, hands, fingers and throat and three of

her ribs were broken. She also suffered massive internal bleeding and ruptures to her spleen and gastric artery and was in hospital for four months.

After the case, Detective Inspector Jack Russell, of Derbyshire Police, said at one stage he feared he would be conducting a murder inquiry. He said: "She nearly died. It was an horrendous attack."

In 1943, Mrs Honczaruk, who speaks little English, was forcibly taken by the Germans from her parents in Minsk to work in a munitions factory. Before then, her parents had offended Stalin and been sent to a prison in Siberia. After the war she was held in a refugee camp in Cambridge-shire before meeting her husband, Hregori, a tutor for Ukrainian immigrants, and living with him in Derby until his death in 1971.

Ivan Fedorynsyn, of the Ukrainian Elderly Day Care Centre in Derby, said: "After the attack she told me she had lived through the hell of the Communists and the Nazis and was still alive because God protected her."

Why some killer whales prefer fish

By Nick Nuttall

KILLER whales do not always deserve their blood-thirsty reputation, say scientists. Many orcas are happy to keep documentary film-makers happy by launching themselves onto beaches to match seals and tear them limb from limb. But others dine exclusively on fish.

The findings, disclosed at a meeting yesterday of the British Ecological Society at Durham University, have come from studies of killer whales off northwest America.

Dr Rus Hoelzel, based at Durham University's department of biological sciences, said yesterday: "Killer whales live in social groups called pods. We have found that some feed on marine mammals. But in these same waters others feed on just fish.



Attempts are made to move a beached killer whale

They follow salmon stocks." Genetic studies showed that there were differences between the meat and fish-eating killer whales. "Although they are living in the same place, they are as different as if you compared geographically isolated popula-

tions, like ones in Argentina with those in Iceland."

Dr Hoelzel said feeding habits had probably evolved to ensure there was enough food and to reduce the chances of the same whales all hunting the same food source. "My feeling is that this

London's 2000 show gets £4m backing

Trafalgar Square in London will be the setting for a two-week late evening spectacular to mark the millennium. The £40 million project will see the square turned into a stage for a multimedia show.

Exact details are being kept secret until the new year, but the project has so impressed the Government that it is contributing £4 million. The bulk will go towards training 9,000 young people in the wide range of media skills needed to put on the show and will lead to the creation of 4,000 behind-the-scenes jobs.

Green award

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, announced a £12 million award for a scheme to expand London's "green industry" and cut the volume of waste by 40 per cent over the next decade. The scheme would make the city the recycling capital of the world, he said.

Greene archive

An archive of books, letters and film scripts by Graham Greene was sold for £255,219 at Sotheby's in London. The top lot was extensive correspondence with the Indian writer R.K. Narayan, which made £23,000. Correspondence with Evelyn Waugh fetched £20,700.

Child drinkers

Two hundred children were detained by Cleveland police during an operation to curb under-age drinking in Stockton-on-Tees. A group of 80 were found drinking on a school playing field. The alcohol was poured away and many faced a dressing-down in front of their parents.

Betts jury out

The jury trying a student for his part in supplying the Ecstasy tablet that killed Leah Betts will resume its deliberations today after failing to reach a verdict last night. Steven Packman, 18, of Laidon, Essex, has denied at Norwich Crown Court any part in the supply of the drug.

'Needless' deaths

Hundreds of travellers die needlessly every year because airline safety procedures are inadequate. More than a third of the 1,500 people who die annually in air accidents should have survived, the European Transport Safety Council said. Deaths rose by 70 per cent this year.

Taste of success

Britain is the centre of the gastronomic world, producing better food than France or Italy, according to Jean Conill, World President of the Epicurean World Master Chefs Society. The rise of young independent chefs, such as Marco Pierre White, and high demand were key factors.

Record spot

The film *101 Dalmatians* broke seasonal British box office records in its first weekend, distributors said. The live action remake of Disney's animation classic took £24 million in three days, the biggest December opening in British cinema history, Buena Vista International said.

Fiennes foiled

Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who was forced to abandon his attempt to become the first man to walk solo across the Antarctic because of kidney stone problems, will not resume his expedition. Sir Ranulph, 52, said last night that insurers would not allow him to continue his quest.

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Identity disc helps experts to identify first of 27 Royal Fusiliers killed in the second battle of Arras

Exhumed soldiers are to be reburied in France

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN MONCHY-LE-FRANCAIS

THE remains of 27 British soldiers killed in the First World War and discovered recently in northern France are to be reburied there.

Forensic experts and military historians were yesterday working to put names to the soldiers, whose makeshift cemetery was discovered on a former battlefield at the edge of an industrial park outside the northern town of Arras.

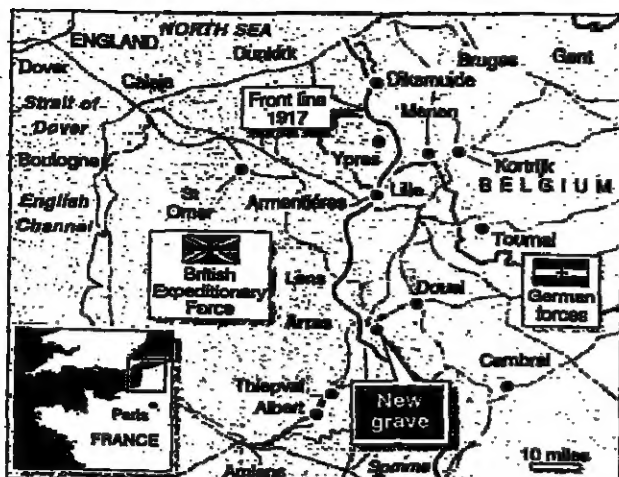
Beverly Webb, a spokeswoman for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, said: "Whether we are successful or not in identifying them, the men will be reburied in a war cemetery in France." She added: "The nearest would be at Arras, but we want to keep the men together and the problem would be whether there are 27 plots there."

Duncan Thomas, exhumation officer at the commission, believes he has identified one of the Royal Fusiliers, killed in the second battle of Arras in April 1917, from a metal identity disc found at the site.

While farmers in northern France periodically unearth the remains of First World War soldiers, most of the large burial sites have been identified. The latest discovery is the largest since the commission uncovered the remains of 51 British soldiers on the Somme battlefield in 1982.

The Monchy site, uncovered by construction workers on Friday, is a sea of mud. It is on a flat strip of land between a new autoroute and the high-speed rail link to Paris. Eurostar trains carrying passengers from London pass a few yards away.

The skeletons — "in a remarkably good state of preservation", according to Michael Johnson, director of the war graves commission in France — have been taken to the mortuary at Arras, where researchers are removing the mud from them retrieved at the site in the search for clues.



The objects are the commonplace but moving debris of war: a broken pipe, a live round, a tanner (zipper), a belt buckle, a tunic button and the epaulettes tag from the 13th Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

As the archaeological evidence and regimental records are pieced together, a clearer picture is emerging of the soldiers' possible fate. They are only a tiny handful of the 35,000 unknown dead who perished at Arras alone.

The identified soldier, whose name has not been released, was a private in the fusiliers killed on April 11, 1917, during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. The day after his death, *The Times* talked of "smart" and "stiff" fighting and described the German counter assault as "probably no more than a local attempt to check our advance... and will not succeed even in that more than temporarily at most".

Evidence from the Monchy site paints a very different picture, of carnage and chaos and a cemetery barely deserving the name, thrown together in the heat of battle as British and German troops fought over the village. The 27 men were buried without coffins, fully clothed, wearing their boots and many still carrying ammunition pouches. Some were buried in shell holes, while others were laid below a few inches of earth.

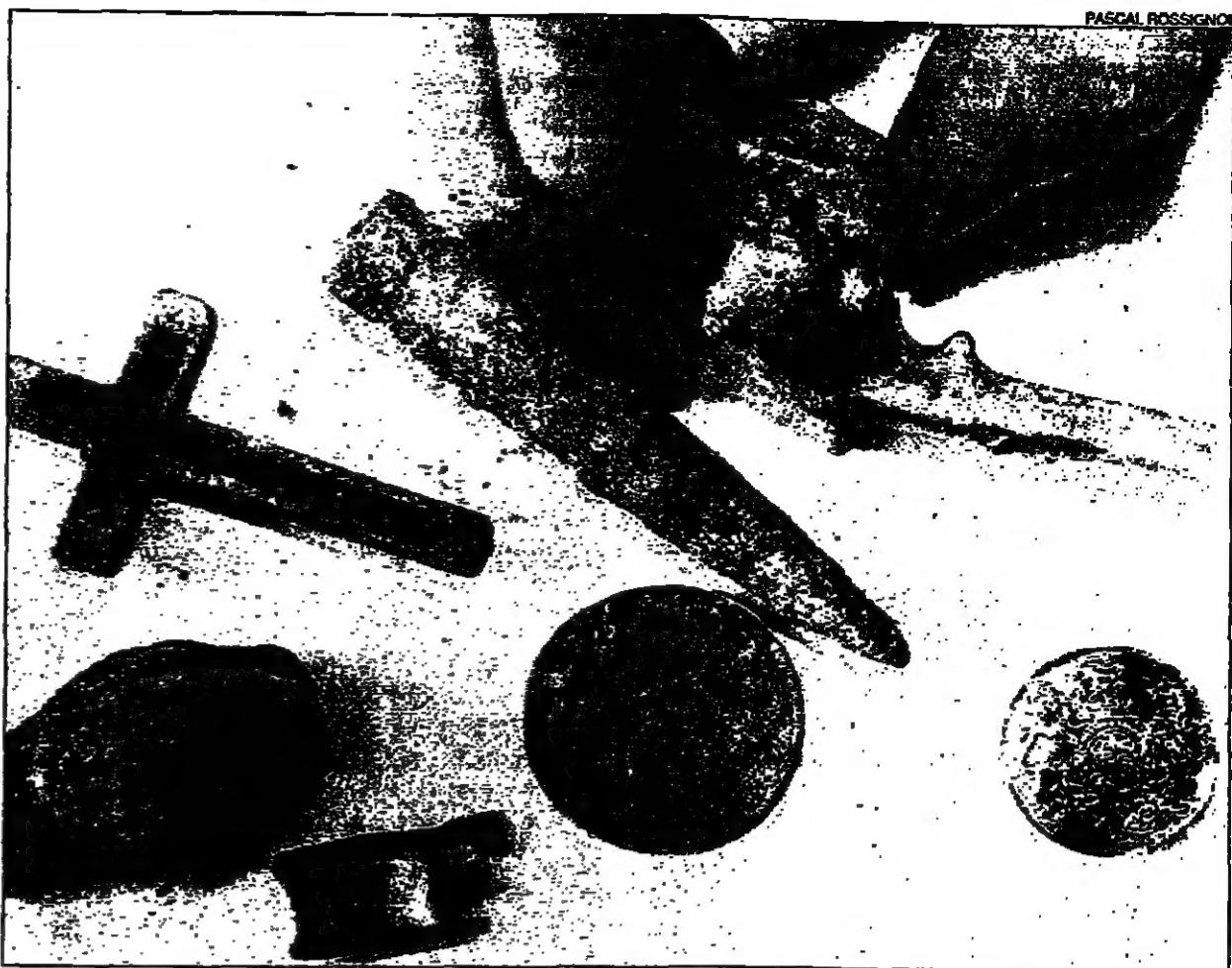
The remains of six soldiers at one end of the site had been previously disturbed, apparently by an exploding shell. However, most of the skeletons are intact, which may indicate that they were casualties wounded in battle who died later in a field hospital near by. Alternatively, Mr Johnson said, they may have been cut down at the same

remnants are so badly decayed that positive identification may be impossible. "This won't tell us anything," Mr Thomas said, holding up a crumbling identity disc.

The commission has placed the names of the 17 million killed in two world wars on a computer database, but identifying those from the newly found grave will be a painstaking detective job. "This might have been an ad-hoc cemetery, ordered by an officer who was later killed, so there would be no record," Mr Johnson said.

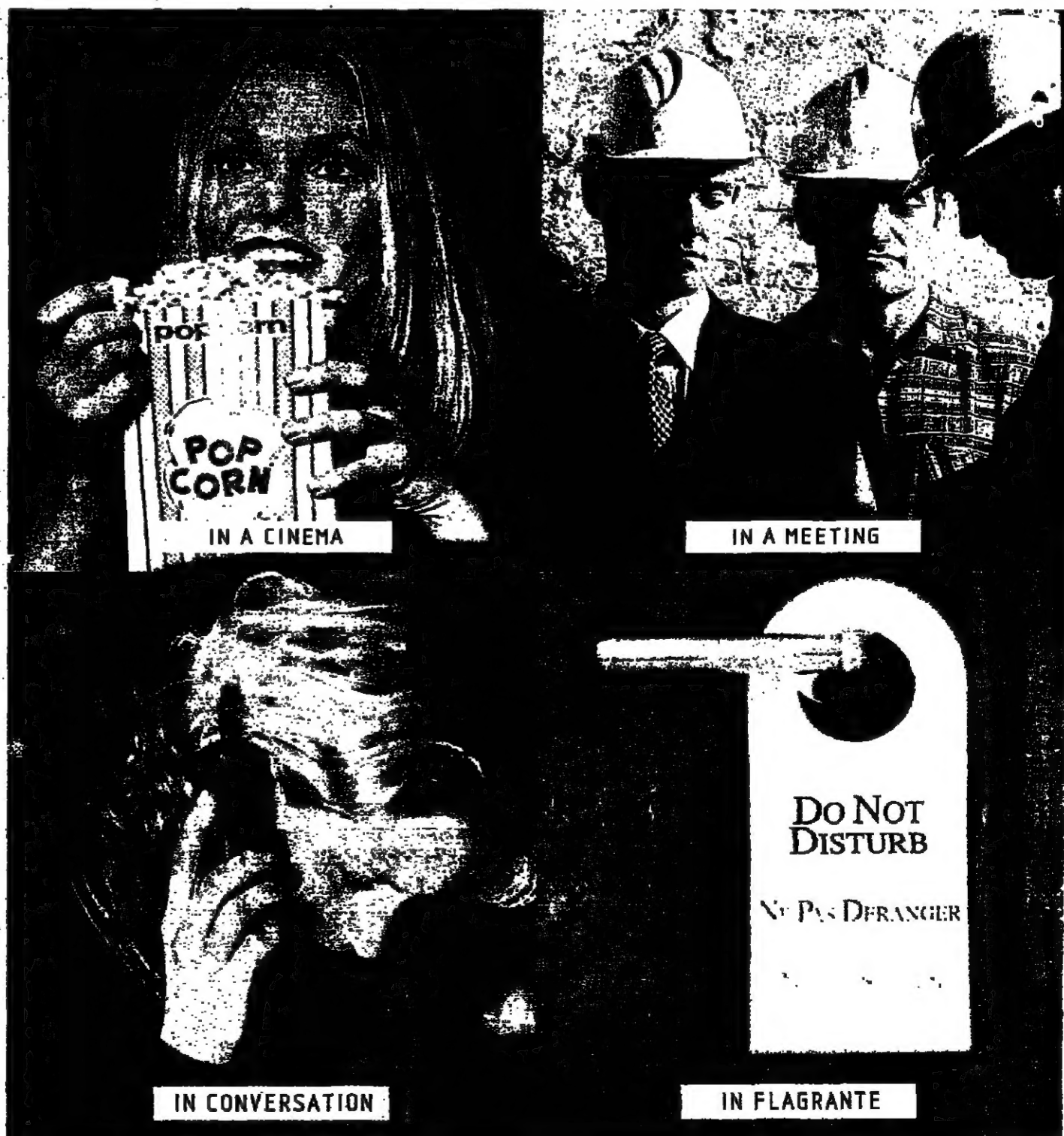
If and when some of the remains are formally identified, the commission will inform the Ministry of Defence, which will then set about attempting to track down relatives.

Tomorrow, the earth movers will return to the site, which is destined to disappear under the sprawling industrial suburbs of Arras. Nevertheless, it will forever be associated with 27 men who died fighting for their country.



Some of the objects from the burial site. Not all soldiers had been issued with metal identity discs by 1917

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Euro rowdies force Sega to kill the queue

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE unspeakable behaviour of continental Europeans has deprived queue-loving Britons of another opportunity to stand in line. The relaunch of a Japanese theme park in central London revealed that the complete rethink of a concept that worked perfectly well in Tokyo was forced by the unwillingness of a range of European visitors to stand one behind the other and await their turn.

The £45 million Segaworld leisure complex in the Trocadero at Piccadilly Circus lowered its general admission price from £12 to £2 and simultaneously introduced individual charges from 50p to £3 for the rides and games.

In the 11 weeks since Segaworld's launch, the managers had found that those who had paid £12 admission formed huge and often unruly queues, at the most popular attractions. Instead of being a centre of fun and innocent pleasure for all the family, Segaworld quickly degenerated into a bearpit of queue-jumping, arguments and, on occasion, brawling.

Back home in Tokyo, Sega has no such problems with its sister attraction, Joypolis. Nick Leslau, chief executive of the Trocadero, said: "The Japanese are terribly polite. If you ask them to stay in a queue, they will."

The trouble at Segaworld was not caused by the Brits, Mr Leslau politely hinted. "It is the Europeans, who are more aggressive and impatient. The problem was that demand for some of the rides was so high that the queues were an hour or more long. Customers did not like that and they said so."

An entirely unscientific survey in central London yesterday showed that the most reluctant queuers were hard-

elbowed Germans. They who attempt to bore their way toward their goal using their arms like screwdriver flanges. In second place come Italians, whose chosen technique is to snarl forward from vantage points near, but not in, the head of the queue, and then to adopt expressions of outraged innocence when accused of not waiting their turn.

Newcomers with rough and ready tactics to beware include Russians and other newly enriched Slavs. After years spent queuing for everything, they now favour a head-down, bullish charge for the front, somewhat like the tanks which their masters used to keep them in order.

Old-fashioned Londoners, though, still delight in queues. "I gave up shopping in Tesco," said Ada Cullen, 78, of Poplar, east London, "when they introduced their silly one-in-front policy, trying to abolish the queues. Queuing is the biggest social occasion of my week. You meet new people, get to hear and see what they are buying and pick up the gossip and the news. Queuing is great."

Two years ago London Transport abandoned a by-law requiring passengers to form orderly queues no more than two abreast. That was not because they had given up hope of keeping order in bus queues, but because so far as anyone could remember no prosecution had ever been brought under the provision.

"It was introduced in 1938 and came into effect in 1939," a spokesman said, "but the need for it to control throngs leaving football matches and such, was overtaken by the war. Then the patient British public got so much into the habit of queuing for everything that the bylaw was never needed."

THE J M

Arts, pages 29-31

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

Liam Kavanagh, 11, with birds at the Ennis Christmas turkey market yesterday.

By AUDREY MAGEE, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

Donal Ryan, general manager of the market, seemed to speak for many others when he snatched up EU directives governing the sale of live birds. "They're a load of codswallop."

Weighty matter

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

By MICHAEL EVANS
SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

Wallace and Gromit, the Oscar-winning creations of animator Nick Park, will be touring Britain in the spring in a stage play devised by London-based John Gore productions, featuring actors in costumes.

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The nine Ulster Unionists, who are now pivotal to keeping John Major in office, were threatening to vote against the Government. They oppose the fisheries policy which they say penalises the Province's fishing industry. They have been

However, because trawlermen from the Republic fish in the same

Speaking in the Commons shortly

pledge to reconsider whether the Hague Preference benefited the

that he had said the same thing a year ago.

Leading article, page 1

Leading article, page 1

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

He said particularly dis-

Earlier the Earl of Strafford, a crossbencher, had tabled a motion calling for the Lords to reject the Bill at second read-

Lord Stoddart of Swindon, a former Labour minister, broke ranks with his own front bench, and condemned the Bill as ill-considered and premature. "This Bill, far from guaranteeing that there will be no future Dunblane or Hungerford, will simply serve to penalise genuine shooters and instead miss the real problem of enforcement and illegally held handguns."

Labour's new MP for Barnsley East, Jeff Ennis, centre right, and his wife, Margaret, right, being welcomed to Parliament yesterday by John Prescott, the deputy party leader, and fellow Labour MPs. The fisheries vote ensured that Mr Ennis, fresh from his by-election victory on Thursday, wasted no time in taking his seat

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

In a speech the Labour leader said that in government he would have "zero tolerance" of school underperformance and would speed up

Local authorities said that they would welcome extra powers to rid poor schools of senior staff but teachers' organisations gave warnings against creating a hire-and-fire culture.

At present councils can appoint a temporary head if inspectors say that a school is failing, but Mr Blair proposed extending the scheme where the school is judged to be at risk of failure.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said that "serious logistical problems" would have to be solved before Mr Blair's scheme could work. "A school is in danger of failing needs a good, strong head teacher of its own, not a job-share with a neighbouring school which

Mr Blair said it was too late to wait until a school was declared to be failing. "We need to be able to intervene early with sufficient power to stop the spiral of decline."

By JAMES LANDALE

The Protection from Harassment Bill aims to create two criminal offences and one civil measure. John Major left the measure out of the Queen's Speech, intending for it to be a Private Member's Bill. But he changed his mind in the Commons when Tony Blair told him: "Produce those Bills on stalking and paedophiles as Government Bills and we will co-operate to take them through the House without delay."

Mr Straw has tabled 11 amendments, the most substantial of which lists definitions of harassment, such as loitering, telephoning and interfering with property. The Government believes that this approach would make it more

The Bill, as it now stands, would make it an offence for anyone to put another person in fear of violence on more than one occasion, or to act in a way that they ought to know amounts to harassment. It would also allow victims to seek civil redress. Offenders would face sentences of up to five years and/or heavy fines.

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BY JOHN O'LEARY

Mrs Shephard responded to the action plans submitted by the school's governors and Calderdale education authority by acknowledging the improvement that had taken place in less than two months. But she said the inspections showed "much more progress" was needed. Although she chose not to transfer The Ridings to an education association, she said she would hesitate to do so. She ordered three more reports before Easter.

Jan Jennings, Calderdale's Director of Education, said Mrs Shephard's comments were a statement of the obvious, adding: "Clearly there is still a great deal to be done."

Mrs Shephard said that the authority was to blame for having been content to watch The Ridings decline. "As a consequence, the school now has an enormous mountain to climb and I am unwilling to leave it to the mercy of the authority until I am satisfied that it is safe to do so."

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Kennedy snaps under pressure from paparazzi

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A BRAWL in a New York street suggests that John Kennedy Jr, son of the late United States President, has reached breaking point with the paparazzi who follow his every move.

Mr Kennedy and his new bride, Carolyn, have been hounded by freelance photographers since they returned from their autumn honeymoon. On Sunday the couple were out walking their dog in central Manhattan when they heard, yet again, the sound of camera motor drives. For once Mr Kennedy, 36, decided not to turn the other cheek. He marched over to one of the photographers' cars, reached through the open window and tried to seize the ignition key.

The incident illustrated the intolerable degree to which the Kennedys are being pursued by celebrity press photographers — every bit as intrusive as the paparazzi who dog the Royal Family. It came after

they learnt that some of their wedding photographs were stolen during a post-marriage party thrown for them at the home of Mr Kennedy's sister, Caroline.

The wedding was conducted amid high secrecy to frustrate the press. It is thought that a guest at the party stole the personal snapshots with the intention of selling them.

Public figures in America are becoming increasingly militant about the "snappers". The problem has been exacerbated by the growing market for video footage of well-known people. The rewards for photographers can be lucrative and the people do not always need to be famous in their own right: the sons and daughters of public figures are considered fair game.

The celebrities' responses range from aggression — Robert De Niro has been known to accost photographers and push them in the chest — to

commercial pressure. The actor George Clooney, supported by many Hollywood stars, has refused to co-operate with a leading "soft" showbusiness nightly television programme unless it forced a harder-nosed sister programme to call off its "stalkerazzi" photographers. The play has been largely successful.

During Sunday's incident, Mrs Kennedy broke down in tears while her husband, clearly enraged, led her to their flat. Before they went inside they flagged down a passing police car which chased the photographers away.

"John went ballistic," Marcel Thomas, a paparazzo, said. During the tussle for the car keys, he also pleaded with the photographers for privacy. Once he and Mrs Kennedy were safely inside the lobby of their building, he placed an arm round her shoulders to console her.



John Kennedy Jr and wife Carolyn outside their flat in October after honeymooning

Meteorite ignites village's coffee crop in Honduras

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A METEORITE has crashed in a remote area of Honduras, leaving a 165ft crater and setting fire to several acres of coffee crops.

News of the incident, which has sparked great scientific interest, took more than two weeks to filter out because of the remote location of the crater.

Witnesses said a large fireball plummeted to earth during the night of November 22 in a remote area of coffee fields about 125 miles west of Tegucigalpa, capital of the small Central American country.

"We saw a large ball of fire, with a long tail that rapidly descended from the sky and fell... before our incredulous eyes," said Elmer Rivera, a schoolteacher near the village of San Luis.

"There were enormous flames and everything was destroyed," said Francisco Aguilar, a farmer.

Honduran authorities have advised those living in the area to stay away from the crater until scientists can examine it for possibly harmful

substances. Scientists say that falling meteorites are a common occurrence. "It does demonstrate that there is a level of risk, which is correlated to the size of the object," said Dr Jacqueline Milton, a scientist at the Royal Astronomical Society.

Experts say the Honduran meteorite may have been only a foot wide. But travelling at an estimated speed of almost 25,000 miles an hour (6.8 miles a second) the impact of the rocky missile created a huge crater.

The chances of a large meteorite hitting Earth are small, say scientists. Last month a three-mile-long asteroid, Toutatis, passed within 3.3 million miles of Earth. If an object of that size did hit, experts say it would be the equivalent of a massive nuclear explosion that could wipe out the human race. The impact might cause a curtain of dust to blot out the sun, producing the equivalent of a "nuclear winter" not unlike the theory which some say explains the extinction of the dinosaurs.



Only four Checker taxis are still operating

New York's Checker cabs at end of road

New York: One of the most potent symbols of postwar New York, the yellow Checker cab, is on the verge of extinction (Quentin Letts writes).

There are only four Checkers left on the streets of Manhattan, four lumbering, genial giants of a New York taxi fleet which once numbered 5,000. The last examples are likely to be retired early next month after new requirements by the city's Taxi and Limousine Commission that cabs should not be more than five years old.

The 1950s-style Checker, with a long wheelbase and sitting high on the road, was New York's answer to the London black cab. It was roomy, big enough to bludgeon its way through traffic, and tough enough to withstand the potholes of the Manhattan public carriage-way. Unlike the London cab, however, it failed to adapt. It went out of production in 1982 and has gradually been replaced by smaller, less comfortable Ford Crown Victorias and Chevrolet Caprices.

One of the last Checker drivers, Earl Johnson, is not optimistic about the old warriors being given exemption from the commission's new rules. "But if they take the Checker, I'm gone too," said Mr Johnson, 59.

A decision by the commission on the future of the cab is expected in March.

Two-seater fatties made butt of fines on subway

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SUBWAY passengers are being fined under a 1940 law which forbids people from taking up more than one seat.

Allegations of "fatism" and pettiness have been aimed at city officials for imposing the law, which on the face of it appears unkind to broader-beamed passengers. But New York's Police Department yesterday defended itself, saying that the law was being used simply to stop thugs and tramps from taking up too much room in the carriages.

The \$50 (£31) fines are being issued at a rate of about 400 a week, generating useful revenue for the city and no shortage of grumbles. "When you give out the number of summonses we give out in this city, you are always going to have someone who is unhappy," said Howard Saffir, New York City's Police Commissioner.

Zachary Schlee, 19, a student, claimed that a policeman apologised when he was fined on the one-seat-only law. "The officer gave me a sob story about how he knew the ticket was petty and horrible, but that they were under pressure from the Mayor," said Mr Schlee, who claimed he was in a near-empty carriage reading a book and sitting lengthwise on a two-seat bench when he was fined.

The subway's moulded seats are of only average width and large folk regularly spill over onto a second seat.

Officer Kevin Tyrrell, on behalf of New York police, yesterday denied that the law was unfair to fat people. "The law is there as a tool and it is being used simply to stop people sleeping on trains."

A straw poll of riders on one subway train showed support for Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's seat campaign. "About time," said one elderly woman who said she had "had enough of having to stand".

Critics rain prizes on slice of London life

FROM GILES WHITTALL IN LOS ANGELES

A LOW-BUDGET film about love, prejudice and other realities of south London life has won three major prizes from a group of Los Angeles film critics.

Secrets and Lies, a profoundly British drama directed by Mike Leigh, won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's awards for best film, best actress (Brenda Blethyn) and best director.

As the awards season gets under way in an exceptionally strong year for films from both sides of the Atlantic, *Secrets and Lies* prevailed over Woody Allen's new musical *Everybody Says I Love You*, and such big-budget rivals as *The English Patient* and *The People vs Larry Flynt* (about the publisher of *Penthouse*).

In the film, which won the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes film festival, Ms Blethyn plays a chain-smoking, working-class mother adrift in a midlife crisis of

part-time jobs and flaming rows with her one daughter. The plot thickens when she turns out to have another, who is out to find her, having been adopted at birth.

Developed over many months without a script or a single special effect, *Secrets and Lies* is Mr Leigh's fourth film to win critical acclaim in America (his others include *Life Is Sweet* and *Naked*), but the first to put him in contention for an Oscar night.

Last week the New York Film Critics Circle voted *Shine*, an Australian release about a gifted but troubled pianist, the year's best film. Both critics' groups are known for favouring experimental films over mainstream ones, but at least their prestige is not in doubt.

Recent revelations of alleged corruption have tarnished the image of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which runs the Golden Globes.

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Kuwait wins \$610m for Gulf War oil inferno

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A UNITED NATIONS commission is recommending that Kuwait should receive \$610 million (£370 million) in damages for the inferno started by Iraq in the Kuwaiti oilfields at the end of the Gulf War.

The award would compensate Kuwait for one of the worst Iraqi atrocities during its seven-month occupation of the emirate.

As allied troops marched on Kuwait in February 1991, retreating Iraqi soldiers set ablaze about 700 oil wells. The conflagration burnt for weeks, sending columns of acrid smoke high into the atmosphere, before the flaming wells were capped.

Abdul Rahman al-Houty, the former chairman of Kuwait's Public Authority, described the fires as "the most notorious and injurious of all the many direct losses suffered as a result of Iraq's unlawful invasion and occupation of Kuwait".

The Kuwait Oil Company had asked the Geneva-based UN Compensation Commission for \$950 million in damages in the first corporate claim assessed by the agency.

Diplomats said yesterday that a three-judge panel, appointed by the commission, had recommended \$610 million in compensation to meet the cost of extinguishing the fires. The panel rejected \$3

million claimed for firefighting payments to Kuwaiti oil workers and deferred the remaining \$337 million to another claim dealing with the loss of physical infrastructure.

The Compensation Commission's governing council, composed of the Security Council's 15 member states, met yesterday to discuss the recommendation but was unable to reach a decision. Diplomats said a number of commission members had raised technical problems, but that formal approval could come as early as today.

"I don't think there is anyone there with a political agenda to disrupt this, but equally there are a lot of people who have spoken up to raise rather smallish points," one official said. "People are aware that this is \$600 million of Iraq's money going to a single claimant and they want to be sure we are taking the right decision."

Iraq has objected to the Kuwait claim, insisting that the oil wells were set alight by allied bombing during the United States-led Operation Desert Storm to liberate Kuwait. Baghdad also complains that the UN trade embargo deprived it of funds for a legal challenge.

Since it was created in 1991, the commission has received \$200 billion in claims from



Oil workers cap a Kuwaiti oil well after putting out the blaze. Iraqi troops set about 700 wells on fire as they retreated from the emirate

individuals, companies and governments who suffered losses in the Gulf War. Until recently, its ability to pay compensation depended on limited government donations and seized Iraqi assets. So far, it has been able to pay out only \$13.4 million to 4,000 priority claimants who lost a close relative or were seriously injured in the conflict.

The commission will soon be able to pay out bigger sums as a result of the long-delayed implementation of the "oil for food" deal between the UN and Iraq, which sets aside 30

per cent of Iraq's oil revenues to compensate claimants.

The "oil for food" scheme allows Iraq to sell up to \$1 billion of crude oil every three months to buy food for its people, so the compensation fund will soon start getting about \$100 million a month.

About 240 British citizens have got a total of \$402,500 in compensation for personal injury or the loss of relatives in the war. Another 1,000 who were forced to flee Kuwait have been awarded a total of \$3.7 million in damages, but have not yet been paid.

Baghdad revives trade links

FROM REUTERS IN DUBAI

IRAQ, ostracised by world oil markets since its invasion of Kuwait six years ago, has found little difficulty in enticing foreign oil companies to rekindle former ties, Gulf-based Western traders said yesterday.

"It has been a long wait. Now it's finally over... Iraq is back as a marketing force."

said a Gulf trader as Iraqi oil exports flowed back onto the international markets under a strictly monitored United Nations "oil for food" plan.

Iraq's petroleum exports had been restricted to limited sales to Jordan, but there was large-scale smuggling by road tankers through Turkey and by ships through Gulf waters.

Muhammad Rasheed, Iraq's Oil Minister, said on Sunday that Baghdad had

signed oil contracts with 11 foreign firms, including some in America which led the force that ejected Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the Gulf War.

Treatment for some Iraqi authorities have ordered a Medevac plane to take President Saddam Hussein's son, Uday, to Switzerland for treatment for gun injuries he suffered in an ambush last week, according to the Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*.

Rifkind looks forward to key year for progress in Cyprus

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

MALCOLM RIFKIND, the Foreign Secretary, said yesterday that 1997 could be a critical year for Cyprus, but he drove home the message that it was up to the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities to solve the island's long-running problem. Friendly powers like Britain would, however, do their utmost to help to break the "logjam".

At the same time, Mr Rifkind issued a warning that there were too many troops deployed on the island and that any further build-up would be a mistake that could damage intense international efforts to start face-to-face peace talks between the two sides. He hoped these would begin early next year.

Mr Rifkind came with no new peace plan, but detailed a

ten-point proposal that he said could help reconciliation. He acknowledged that major problems remained and refused to raise hopes. "I haven't used the word optimism. I have expressed hope and realism," he said after separate talks with President Clerides and Rauf Denktaş, the separatist leaders of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities. They have not met directly for more than two years.

"I sense there is a view in both communities that 1997 is a crucial year which could mark radical progress or be a massive lost opportunity," he said. There were grounds for hope in the fact that, unlike other international trouble-spots, both sides had long agreed on a common objective

which was to reunite under a bi-zonal federation.

However, the exact nature of that federation and issues like sovereignty, territory and security guarantees have bedevilled negotiations. Mr Rifkind's proposals, in keeping with well-known United Nations plans, addressed these concerns in some detail. They spoke of political equality for the two communities, international security guarantees and a redrawing of the present dividing line that could help the return of many refugees from 1974.

Mr Rifkind's official visit, which lasted less than 24 hours, was the first by a senior British government minister since Cyprus gained its independence from Britain 36 years ago.

Calls for release of Chechnya captives

FROM RICHARD BESSTON IN MOSCOW

URGENT contacts were under way last night between Russian and Chechen officials to secure the release of 22 servicemen, kidnapped at the weekend by a renegade Chechen guerrilla leader.

In the first serious test of the peace deal signed in August between the Kremlin and Chechen separatists, Salman Raduyev seized the Russians and vowed to continue fighting against Moscow's rule. He has said that his hostages will be released only when he receives an apology from a local Russian commander and Chechen prisoners are freed.

The missing men, from an Omon paramilitary force, were abducted on Saturday in Dagestan, which borders Chechnya. The Russians have said that, unless the men are freed unharmed, the entire deal ending 21 months of fighting could be jeopardised. Under the accord, Moscow has agreed to withdraw its troops, 8,000 of whom are still in Chechnya and the Chechens are to hold presidential polls on January 27. The strain in relations is just what Mr Raduyev wanted. Last January, scores of people died when the Russians tried to free hostages held by the commander in Dagestan. He and his "Lone Wolf" group escaped into nearby hills.

US statesmen join forces to save Israel peace plan

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THREE former US Secretaries of State and five other former American officials have called on Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, not to expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The group took the unusual step of sending a letter to Mr Netanyahu's office, warning that any expansion of settlements could destroy the peace process.

It was signed by James Baker and Lawrence Eagleburger — who were Secretaries of State in the George Bush Administration — and Cyrus Vance, who was the Secretary of State under Jimmy Carter. Next to their signatures were those of former National Security Advisers Zbigniew Brzezinski, Frank Carlucci, Brent Scowcroft, Richard Fairbanks and Robert Strauss. Five of them are Republicans and three are Democrats.

In their letter, the former American political leaders and officials said: "We write to you since we fear that one-sided steps — such as settlement expansion — will be very counter-productive to the goal of reaching a solution through negotiations. If it is carried out, it could stop the progress that has been reached in the peace process in the past two decades."

"We therefore called you, just as we called everyone on the Arab side, as the Prime Minister of Israel, to prevent one-sided action that will prevent an agreed-upon arrangement."

ment and a lasting and comprehensive peace."

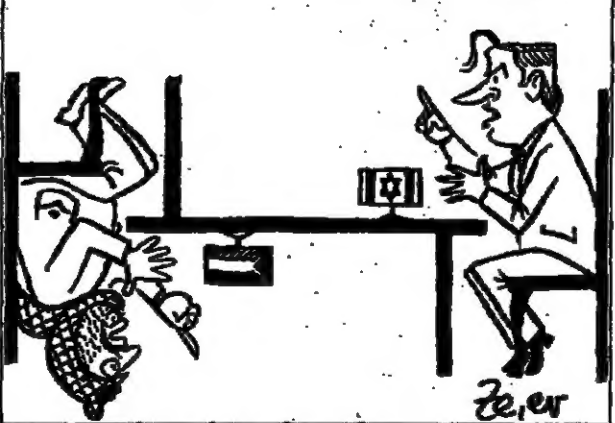
David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's communications director, confirmed that Israel had received the letter and was not surprised by its sentiments. He pointed out that George Schultz and Henry Kissinger, both former US Secretaries of State, refused to add their names to the letter.

"These eight people were known as not the most friendly to Israel to say the least... Israel's real friends not only refused to sign this letter but are expressing their support for our policies all the time."

The Israelis and the Palestinians, under American pressure, agreed in principle yesterday to resume negotiations on troop redeployment in Hebron.

Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, expressed his sorrow for the killing of a Jewish settler woman and her son by Palestinian terrorists last week. "Please accept my sincere condolences over the death of the mother and her son," he said. He said he had called on George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, to "stop the terror". Mr Habash's Damascus-based group last week admitted responsibility for the attack.

In reply, Mr Netanyahu expressed his sorrow over the killing last week "by mistake" of a Palestinian worker by an Israeli. It was the leaders' first conversation since September.



Zeev in Tel Aviv's Maariv, takes a pessimistic view of talks between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders

Toy store sets up wish list for small shoppers

BY QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN toy store company has introduced wedding list-style registries for children. The scheme encourages children to name as many as 25 toys they would like, regardless of cost.

Their youthful desires are placed on a nationwide computer which feeds uncles and aunts, if uncertain about what to give "Junior" for Christmas, may consult. Toys 'R' Us has introduced its children's gift registry to an initial test sample of 140 stores in the United States. The response has been enthusiastic, and the registries are likely to spread.

At one Manhattan outlet, a Toys 'R' Us sales assistant, engulfed by piling six-year-olds, said the response had been amazing, before she disappeared from sight amid a melee of small hands. The company introduced the idea after the success of a similar scheme for parents of infants.

Debbie Williams, a spokeswoman, claimed the registry would "save people a lot of headaches". To register, a child must fill out a form, ticking required presents after a tour of the aisles — just as betrothed couples do at Peter Jones.

On registration, the child receives a wad of gift registry cards which can be sent to relatives and friends. They are advised that they can go to their local Toys 'R' Us and buy the toy, which will be delivered to the recipient's home address.

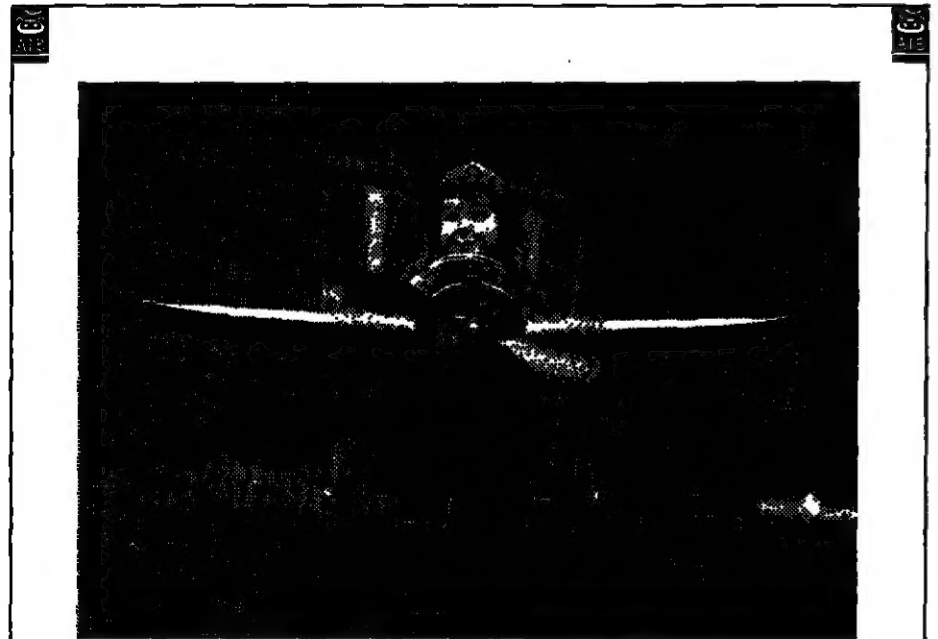
Lori Mammen, a parental guidance consultant, attacked the idea as an unwanted commercialisation of the traditional letters children write to Father Christmas. "This encourages materialism, depersonalises families and discourages the whole idea of giving," said Ms Mammen, editor of *Think*, an educational journal.

"We already make children expect too much, and people spend too much on kids' presents. Now children will just think 'put in your order and you will get what you want'," she said.

At the weekend there was further evidence that Christmas shopping is no place for fainthearts when a New Brunswick store worker had to be taken to hospital after being crushed by over-eager consumers.



Santa: threatened with redundancy



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Border car theft drives Germans wild

Heiner was still distraught as he left Berlin police headquarters. On Saturday, a few hours after the European Union made a ringing commitment to fighting organised crime, he had lost his pride and joy, a cream Audi.

"It's probably already on its way to Kiev or somewhere," he grumbled. Discovering the theft, reporting it and flicking through an album of suspects had taken 24 hours. From Berlin it is 30 miles to the Polish border.

The trail does not go completely cold when the car crosses Germany's eastern frontier, but the bureaucratic paper chase certainly slows things down. Heiner, a software salesman in his thirties, is right in assuming that his pale beauty is now blue or black, with different plates and different identity papers. By today or tomorrow, the car might be ferrying a Romanian businessman to his favourite Bucharest disco.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, wants an "operational police force" in Europe

Vehicle crime is so serious it poses a political threat to Helmut Kohl and lends urgency to his plan for a European police unit, Roger Boyes reports from Berlin

to crack down on organised crime — and East-West car theft is high on the agenda. Many citizens are beginning to lose faith in a Europe which, by dint of open borders and a single market, has made the Continent a lucrative hunting ground for car thieves. The car theft figures — 130,000 a year in Germany, 287,000 in France — are making an impact on public acceptance of another of Herr Kohl's European goals — to enlarge the EU eastwards by 2000.

The Chancellor knows votes are at stake. In his briefing to German journalists at Dublin, he said: "The whole subject of mafia activity, drugs and crime will decide the general election in 1998." Europe had to be made flexible enough, he said, to

deal with cross-border crime. Herr Kohl nowadays avoids public mention of the phrase "European FBI", but the idea of a federal police unit still has him in thrall. Europol has extended its brief to take in organised car theft and the Chancellor wants the unit to be operational before the October 1998 election.

The daily practice of the Schengen agreement has drifted away from the utopia of continental Europe allowing the unimpeded travel possible across the United States. The Germans have been positioning vehicle monitoring units just behind the western frontiers with France and the Benelux states.

The thieves' destinations are not only eastern. Stolen

German cars are often shifted quickly to Belgium, resprayed and renumbered, and then taken south to Spain and North Africa. Many a BMW parked overnight in a multi-storey car park has ended up in Morocco. But the main demand is in the East: the new rich of the post-communist states are hungry for fast cars. Legal purchase and import from the West is very costly.

Professor Ulrich Sieber of Würzburg University has drafted a report on behalf of the German police recommending a European car registration system. He urges an end to the registering of cars by post — all vehicles should be physically presented to an authorised examiner. And when a car is wrecked, its papers should be sent immediately to the insurer who should cross-register the documents with the police. The reason is that gangs are buying up wrecked cars, ostensibly for scrap, and then using the identity documents to cover a new stolen car of the same make.

The Poles are beginning to

co-operate quite actively with the German authorities. But because one in three of the car thefts in Germany is connected with some kind of insurance fraud, bilateral co-operation has been slowed. Typically, three German friends might visit a Polish town, eat a long slap-up meal in a restaurant and then report their car stolen.

The Polish police can sometimes trace such cars quickly but are reluctant to return the vehicles until insurance fraud has been ruled out. That often means waiting for the thieves to be caught and sentenced — a process that can last for many months.

Herr Kohl's demands for a "common area of justice" in Europe may ring alarm bells for British Eurosceptics, but they are welcome in Central Europe, where car theft is as annoying as it is in Germany. The political will is certainly there in Warsaw — three successive interior ministers have had their cars stolen and so has the Prime Minister.

Trading trash



Giles Coren
on the two-way
transatlantic
traffic in
celebrities

The proposed displacement of Sylvester Stallone from Miami to London looks set to cause a crisis on the international celebrity market, with a big rush on London occasioned by the weakness of the celebrity pound in relation to the celebrity dollar. The market may soon go into free-fall. For a long time there was a sort of equilibrium between Britain and America, and despite a deregulated market there was a reasonable balance of trade.

They took David Hockney. We swiped Stanley Kubrick. Tracey Ullman defected with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour. Ruby Wax crossed the sea to make good the deficit, with her own unique brand of in-your-face humour.

In journalism we took a gamble, going very long on glamourpusses such as Anna Wintour. Tina Brown and Zoë Heller, not to mention former *Modern Review* editor Toby Young. Expecting to recoup our investment we got, instead, Janet Daley and a brief visit from Bill Bryson.

If they are sending us Stallone then we want to offload some of our rubbish in return, thank you very much.

We tried giving them Liz and Hugh and they sent them right back, via Paris. Perhaps they would consider taking Chris Evans. Anthea Turner and Tamara Beckwith as some sort of recompense. Notwithstanding the attempt to kidnap Wallace and Gromit some weeks ago.

The Duchess of York is also planning a sharp exit. She apparently wants to live in Wyoming, the enormous state best known as the place "where the deer and the antelope play, and seldom is heard a discouraging word..." She should be so lucky.

If we are going to export our Royal Family, then we will expect something in return — like the Jacksons. Fergie for LaToya, Michael for Diana, etc. It all seems to work rather nicely.

Madonna dropped a hint recently about moving here, and unsubstantiated rumours put Cher's new address as somewhere in London's Docklands. But two ageing rock chicks would hardly make up for the loss of Fergie and Di. Then again...

The thing to bear in mind is that American celebrities think London is the best city in the whole wide world and they just love the audiences here, and want to stay forever. They always say so on chat shows, so it must be true. All the same, Michael Jackson said exactly that on a

recent tour of Budapest — and if Jacko is planning to buy a house in Hungary, then Billy Jean is not his lover.

Look at *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*. Every single performer is North American: Mike McShane, Greg Proops, Ryan Stiles. This is a good deal. They are funny. Let us only despatch Jim Davidson, Angus Deayton and the whole cast of *2Point4 Children* and we will be able to lay down the groundwork for parity.

There is still work to be done, however. How on earth did we manage to get lumbered with Rachel Williams (soulless pierced thing from *The Girlie Show*), Katie Puckrick and Caprice Bourret? Does a total failure to charm, move, or sexually arouse Americans mean that we British will necessarily lap them up?

We did manage to offload Amanda de Cadenet, it must be said. But it was a Pyrrhic victory.

As far as really big names go, our days of export are past. Where once we sent out the Collenses, Jackie and Joan, to fly our elegant flag, today it is one-way traffic.

Tom Cruise has fallen in love with our little island since

making *Mission: Impossible* here, and regularly rents Lord Hindlip's Holland Park townhouse for £10,000 a week. Even his children are going native, attending school in Britain while Pa films *Eyes Wide Shut*, a movie by, coincidentally, Stanley Kubrick. Richard Gere is said to be on the brink, and Elle Macpherson, once Australian but American now by residence, said on *Clive Anderson All Talk* on Sunday that she was considering a move to London. The Body makes *The Move*.

We receive all this talentless celebrity, only to export true home-grown talent hoping, by the move, to become celebrated: think of Gary Oldman, Tim Roth, Emily Lloyd and now, apparently, Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker.

It was once so different, with bona fide exchanges of genuinely valuable human commodities.

They gave us T.S. Eliot. We gave them W.H. Auden. They gave us Henry James, we tried to give them Charles Dickens but he returned, it is said, disillusioned. Even quite recently Kingsley Amis defected to teach at Princeton, taking with him the young Martin, who returned but never quite got over it.

So what will Sly do now, cut off from Hollywood? Will it be the RSC? Merchandise? Insiders at the BBC know better. He is, in fact, pencilled in as the long-lost Mitchell brother from *EastEnders*.

Shaven-headed and ready to ass-kick, the short, ugly Sly is crossing the pond for no other reason than to stake his claim as top gezer on the manor, sing a few rounds of "Knees up Muvva Braan" and love his mum.



Arriving? Stallone



Leaving? The Duchess

John Peel tells Noreen Taylor about the other great passion of his life

'A world without Sheila was impossible. I've never known fear like it in my life'

Legendary disc jockey A Radio One institution! A Sixties survivor who still counts A Past-it Pillar of Post-punk Society!

At 51, John Peel is naturally rather resistant to the hackneyed tags that tend to accompany his name.

"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit or carried a guitar," goes the flat, lugubrious, Liverpoolian drone. "I look like a mini-cab driver. My children find having a C-list celebrity as a father mildly embarrassing. I think I'm fairly anonymous-looking though."

I thought so, too, until he started to leave the Soho restaurant, when heads turned and subdued murmurings of "Hi John" greeted him as he passed tables.

Self-effacement, a hippie Sixties thing, is very big with Peel. "I really am someone who got lucky," he keeps insisting. "A guy who drifted

into a position that I used to think would be the job of my dreams. Still is, in fact... playing records, being a conduit for other people's talent. That's how I see myself."

Yet he is not what you see or hear. He has become the man he wants to be.

John Robert Parker Ravenscroft, middle class, public school educated son of a Cheshire cotton broker, fled his class, its customs and prejudices, for one he felt more at home in. Cool, lefty, laid-back proletarian.

With everybody busy downclassing in the Sixties, Peel followed the trend, adopting a Liverpool accent, which fitted in perfectly with his DJ role.

"My emotional growth has been reversed if you like," he says, trying to explain his background. "As a child I never cried. Not even when getting a six-inch wound stitched, not even as a seven-year-old on the train to boarding school when the carriage was filled with blubbing boys. In my parents' set I was famous as the boy who never cried. Now I do it all the time... well not exactly, but I had my first big blub 20 years ago when our William was born."

"Sheila and I didn't think we'd want children. We saw ourselves as a unit, content with each other. Then Sheila started reading *Just William* stories to me in bed, and after a while we began to feel... oh wouldn't it be nice to have our own little William."

"Mm," he mutters, glancing worriedly at my pad. "I can't imagine what that's going to look like in print."

For more than 30 years, Peel has been the seminal voice of serious rock, too. Never Boyzone. Never nursery bands. We're taking avant-garde, underground rock, man.

Peel's curiosity dissipates once the band has made it... his interest, he claims, is ignited largely by the unknown and the obscure. Doesn't it ever get tedious... year on year of increasingly moronic guitar riffs. Electric anarchy! Doesn't he ever long for the grown-up world of jazz, big bands, Ella, Mozart?

"Yeah, I know what you mean," concedes Peel reluctantly. "Trouble is, I've never reached puberty. Anyway, Benjamin Britten can be just as difficult to come to terms with as the music I play," he adds, an edgy defence creeping into his voice.

Does his wife enjoy the sound of endless tapes being played? Tapes flooding in from every aspirant Dylan on the planet.

"Only to the extent where she'll appear in my room dancing, or if the weather's nice, I'll see her leaping around the lawn outside."

He's a great talker. Funny, frank, wise, modest... someone whose company enriches and informs, who comes armed with a cache of anecdotes collected from years presenting pop programmes.

Currently, there are two weekend Radio One shows, a British Forces Broadcasting Service one whose prehistoric origins are long lost, as well as a BBC World Service slot.

So how come you rarely do television John? "Cos I look funny. And I don't think I'm very good."

Channel Four's *Travels With My Camera*, scheduled to be shown on Sunday, proves otherwise. Peel takes



"I don't look like a legend, never worn a tartan suit. I look like a mini-cab driver"

his battered old left-hand drive Mercedes off to Berlin where he meets up with Schneider, a punk from the former East Germany. Before the fall of the Wall, Schneider used to stay up half the night listening as his hero broadcast to the British forces.

Peel describes his heroes as people who have managed to create something that's perfect. Such as?

"Well, I'd loved to have written something as beautiful as *Teenage Kicks* by The

'My family life contains the easy warmth I never knew as a child'

Aside from obscure rock bands and Liverpool Football Club, John Peel's great passion in life is his wife, Sheila. The woman known to his listeners as 'The Pig'. As titles go, it is not perhaps the most elegant of nomenclatures? "She snorts when she laughs, which is

Later, when the conversation moves round to Sheila again, he spoke of her moving, and in a way men rarely do when speaking of their wives, or of their marriage. The emotional bruising he suffered last June when his wife collapsed with a brain haemorrhage, remains palpable.

"Flossie, who's 14, youngest of our four children, rang me to say Sheila had been admitted to Addenbrooke Hospital in Cambridge. I was stuck on the Isle of Man, couldn't get back. I remember this hideous blackness descending, the

God-awful trying to struggle through it, trying not to think... you know... what if? The world without Sheila! Just trying to move past that, through that pain. Impossible. Never known fear like it in my life. Children and I, we sat round a table waiting during the 5½-hour operation. They were wonderful, I was so proud of them — forgot all the arguments over the pizza boxes left in their bedrooms."

"Sheila is recovering now, not yet the blur round the

house she usually is, handling all practicalities, dealing with the Aga man. Unlike me, the airy aesthete. I'm always uneasy when I'm away from her now. Hate being away from her anyway, if I'm honest. Until I was 50, I used to spend 20 hours a week on the motorway, between London and Suffolk where we live. I've cut that down to Saturday and Sunday. Yeah, I come home Saturday nights. Have to. Otherwise I get homesick. I'm constantly checking on her, even during the night when I go to the loo. I have to switch on the light, just to be sure. I know I'll be doing that for the rest of my days.

"Sounds as though I'm describing the family from Disneyland with everyone at the front door, jumping up and down shouting 'Hello Daddy', which it certainly isn't."

"It's just that my family life contains the easy warmth I never knew as a child, I find myself envying my children their childhood. Not that I'm blaming my parents, they were helpless having come from the same world."

"Meeting Sheila, who comes

from Bradford, from an Irish Catholic family, a background so radically different from my own, helped to break the cycle. Becoming part of Sheila's family was almost as wonderful as meeting the woman herself."

They met, he recalls with perfect clarity, in the mid-Sixties in a television studio.

Sheila, a graduate trainee teacher, was in the audience with a group of friends.

She was wearing dark green, looked sensational and I sent her a note with my telephone number. She thought I was a twerp but her friends forced her to ring me. I remember the scuffling sound of them all in the telephone box. The note? It probably said something about love and peace. I tended to go on a lot about that in those days, and girls I went out with... pretend models and actresses, would sigh "Ooh, John, that's really beautiful". And then Sheila came along and told me not to be such a daft bugger. Pretty soon it was just the two of us, travelling round the country in the back of a Dormobile looking for our dream home.

"I'm very happy, fully contented. For me, depression comes when I hear of people being treated harshly, when I realise how badly off other people are compared to me."

"Like Elvis I used to believe that if he'd come and lived with us for a couple of weeks, we'd have got him sorted out. Charles and Diana, too. Trouble with people like them is that they're not rooted in any kind of recognisable reality. What they need is someone like me telling them: 'Right, now we're off to Sainsbury's, then we're going to pick up the kids from school. Then we've got to feed the animals.' I really mean that."

TOMORROW

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SPECIAL DEAL

The balance of Teuton and Gaul

Anatole Kaletsky says Britain must be the pivot of Europe

Creation of a European monetary union is now almost inevitable. That is the bad news that came last week out of Dublin. The good news, however, is almost equally clear. France won a decisive victory over Germany in the monetary battle of Dublin. As a result, it is now almost certain that the euro will be a relatively soft currency, managed more in the style of the French franc and Italian lira than the present-day German mark. This is what economists and investors of an intellectual bent sometimes describe as a "paradigm shift": an event that suddenly changes the way the world appears.

The paradigm shift from a hard to a soft euro is good news for both Britain and Europe from an economic perspective, since it could give Europe more pragmatic macroeconomic management, and help to pull it out of the morass of stagnation and unemployment. But there are even more important ramifications for Britain in Europe's shift from a hard to a soft monetary union.

The tangible evidence of the shift at Dublin was the effective shredding of the German-inspired stability pact. The French and their allies (including Britain) diluted to the point of invisibility the German proposals for levying fines on governments in the monetary union which allegedly mismanage their domestic finances.

Germany's stability pact was shredded in Dublin

The original terms of the stability pact proposed by Germany would have imposed enormous financial penalties on many countries, with the money flowing into the coffers of the EU and being used ultimately to reduce the contributions of the its member countries, above all Germany.

If the German version of a stability pact had existed over the past 25 years, the cumulative fines imposed on France, never mind Italy, would have been greater, when adjusted for inflation, than the total reparations paid by Germany after the First World War. Fortunately, nothing of this kind is now likely to happen.

The deal agreed in Dublin leaves decisions on penalising economic mismanagement entirely to politicians. It also ensures that a sufficient majority to impose fines will never be mustered. Because of the EU rules on qualified majority voting, Italy, for example, would need the support of only two other large countries to avoid paying fines, regardless of how it managed its domestic finances. Is it likely that politicians from Spain, Greece or even France would ever vote against fellow Mediterranean governments, knowing full well that next time they themselves might be in the dock?

Not if you ask Ottavio Fassino, the exasperated chief economist of the Bundesbank, who analysed the situation with characteristic clarity in a speech he delivered a few hours before the stability pact was signed last Friday: "If you leave the decisions (on fines) to political bodies, then you have

the potential sinners judging the actual sinners." The answer to Dr Issing is clear. This is exactly how justice works in free societies the world over. There is no more reason to leave economic decisions to the latter-day saints who work for central banks than there is to allow civil servants to decide who is guilty of theft or murder.

The German defeat over the stability pact, therefore, was a victory both for democracy and for common sense. But it has two wider political ramifications. The first is that Germany has used its last effective weapon for fighting battles over the form of monetary union. Until last weekend, Germany could always threaten to demand a tougher stability pact if its partners would not give way to its demands. Now that this threat has been nullified, Germany has only one device left in its armoury. This is the "doomsday" weapon of abandoning or delaying monetary union — and in Dublin Helmut Kohl made it clear that ever that this is a weapon he would never dare to use.

The second political implication follows from the first. It is now much more likely than it was a few days ago that Italy and Spain will be able to join the monetary union from the very start.

The Club Med countries will now be much less deterred by the threat of draconian fines. Even more importantly, they will be

strongly supported by France, which is no longer intimidated by German threats to give up monetary union and now sees a real possibility of wresting control of the single currency from the start from Germany and its Northern client states.

This is where Britain's political strategy comes in. Until recently it was reasonable for Britain to assume that the euro zone would consist of a "hard core" of Northern countries dominated by Germany — and that alliances with Germany would be the key to defending British interests in the councils of the EU. It now looks increasingly likely that Europe will be dominated by France and the Mediterranean states, operating in perpetual tension with Germany.

This is not necessarily bad news from Britain's standpoint. For a Britain that consciously chooses to remain on the prosperous periphery of Europe, there is much to be gained from the growth of friendly dissension between Germany and France. Britain must now identify its national interests as clearly as the French and the Spanish — and pursue them as ruthlessly in the EU, throwing its weight alternately behind the Germans and the Mediterranean states, depending on our own national advantage. Monetary union will strain the Franco-German alliance that used to dominate Europe, almost to breaking point. There could be no better time to revive Britain's traditional European diplomacy, based on the balance of power.



Shopping hysteria

Is obsessive buying a real disorder?
Just ask any toy-crazed parent

It is not good enough. Who would believe an election is pending? The spin-doctors are missing easy shots; politicians are simply not opportunistic enough. Admittedly, it was a good wheeze to send out a young fogey from *The Spectator* to meet the Spice Girls and hint to the bare-bellied minxes that if they sounded worried enough about the single currency they could get their video on *Newsnight*. Mr Portillo's instant endorsement of the group was perhaps a little hasty ("Poor man, he doesn't know what he's getting into," said my young daughter sadly. "Has he actually seen them?"), but it was a brave stab.

That apart, the man who lives in the dark is being slow. A whole day has passed since the report from Dr Richard Elliott and Professor Kevin Gurney declaring a real and diagnosable disorder of "shopaholism", while on every high street the electorate may be seen roaming like starving buffaloes, crazed with longing for vague toys. You would have expected that by now new Labour would have promised to be tough on shopping, with NHS psychiatrists available in booths next to Gift Leatherware to alleviate the suffering of women with low self-esteem and high credit ratings. Meanwhile the Conservatives could have promised a Shopper's Charter guaranteeing a battery-operated Buzz Lightyear for every family in the land.

Come on, lads, what are you waiting for? This is a genuinely modern issue. Never before in human history has so much variety been so readily available so fast: surely mind-benders should be capitalising on the brand-new, vibrantly exciting social problem of retail addiction. Everyone, not just a few psychiatrists, should be out there noisily and expensively "tackling" it (although the researchers may have unwittingly provided a cure in the report: they say the shopping "disorder" is often caused by sexual disappointment. Next time anybody spots you burdened at the checkout with a manic gleam in your eye, you will know exactly what they are concluding. Who knows, *macho shame* might send some victims strait back to the hanging-rails so that they can slink past the line of pathetic laden inadequacies with one pair of black socks and a smug wiggle of the hips).

Actually, it is impossible to quarrel

with the thesis that some people get obscure emotional satisfactions from irrational shopping. In the survey they ran up huge debts, remortgaged their houses and did things like buying 160 pairs of shoes to compensate for their dull marriages. A clear link was found between addictive spending and a background of abuse, bereavement or depression. The researchers found classic patterns of fevered anticipation and climax followed by self-disgust and secrecy. Add the Duchess of York's autobiography and you have a syndrome.

Most of us can open cupboards and point to certain objects bought out of psychological, not material, need: unwearable leggings to make us feel chic, impractical underwear to make us feel sexy, wooden ducks to make us feel like children, computer gizmos we never learnt to operate, flaky hats that seemed a good idea when we were weaving down Regent Street after the office party (in the Disney Store the other evening, everybody in sight was visibly tipsy). A friend of mine once bought a very expensive and nasty heart-rug simply because she had just been introduced to the newlywed Princess of Wales and felt she ought to celebrate. Certain men cheer themselves up in winter by going into chemists' shops and buying tub after tub of vitamins and herbal pick-me-ups which they put on the shelf and never touch again. Even poverty is no protection: 10 per cent of the avowed shopaholics in the survey were on benefits. And it gets more complicated. The emotional neediness of the shopper is not necessarily selfish. One of the most fascinating Christmas phenomena of modern Christmas is the craze toy shortage, repeated every couple of years amid panic, mass anxiety and sometimes actual fights.

One year there were scenes of tugging and weeping over Cabbage Patch dolls; now something called Tickle Me Elmo has caused American parents to fly in and raid Selfridges, and the spaceman Buzz Lightyear is unobtainable in Britain. I once visited eight shops in search of a particular Bogin, and raced without dignity for a Ninja Turtle (shopaholic researchers please note: the triumph of capturing the object of desire is usually expressed by spending thirty quid on whatever rubbish is next to the checkout, and buying a bottle of old malt on the way home. This echoes the Roman triumphs, where getting a new bit of Gaul entitled you to parade through the streets wearing laurels and lions).

The toy trade itself is caught on the hop by these outbreaks of infantile need transmuted into parental anxiety. The desperation spreads upwards into their own management. A veteran toy retailer once reminisced with me about past panics, cruel scarcities of pink plastic ponies and inter-company skulduggery about consignments of robots from Taiwan. At one point he uttered the immortal line: "I once had to sit up drinking all night with a man to get some Trex Dolls in." One day I shall write a blockbuster novel about this cut-throat world, and sweep SAS fiction off the shelves as every real man fantasises about being the hero who pulls off the Tickle Me Elmo coup.

Libby Purves

skulduggery about consignments of robots from Taiwan. At one point he uttered the immortal line: "I once had to sit up drinking all night with a man to get some Trex Dolls in." One day I shall write a blockbuster novel about this cut-throat world, and sweep SAS fiction off the shelves as every real man fantasises about being the hero who pulls off the Tickle Me Elmo coup.

Proof that we are dealing with a genuine disorder, not plain old greed, lies in this proxy desperation, this perversion of the parental instinct. In the year of the Tracy Island shortage (remember: a plastic moulding of Thunderbirds HQ) this paper sent me to queue through the dawn outside Toys R Us to take the temperature of the pre-Christmas craze. Many of the parents had been there all night, on mattresses and folding chairs, and to my surprise they were in tearing good spirits. "We've been talking all night, all strangers together, about how much we love our children," said one mother wearily. A man had kept a journal through the night and handed it to me: he recorded small-hours confessions like the one from

another father remembering his own loveless childhood and resolving that he would do better by his own kid — by sleeping rough all night to buy a lump of moulded plastic. It was, without exaggeration, very like a pilgrimage.

Perhaps that is why the politicians are wary of saying much about the retail craze, beyond the usual mantra about "consumer-led recovery". Perhaps they are wary because it is has acquired the numinous, dangerous power of religion. Every year, shopping takes over more and more of our lives. Shops have swallowed post offices, so that there is no longer any civic, uncommercial dignity in taking your car or drawing your pension. There are to be doctors' surgeries in supermarkets; already there is a Sunday school run by the Salvation Army as a response to Sabbath shopping.

Of course to some of us, a session down the high street or mall is not an thrill but an ordeal of queues, overheating, muzak and frustration. So we may think we have evaded the new social disease. But no, shopping reaches its tentacles out even to those who think they abhor it. I do almost everything by mail order and have noted an unsettling tendency to do the actual deed in moments of boredom and depression, berating my credit-card number down the telephone and gabbling product numbers as if I were gulping meths. Looking around my study at this very moment, I concede that it is possible that even the Christmas season does not justify ten pairs of tap-dancing clackers, eight novelty wigs and a camping kettle.

The future grows more sinister. Interactive computer shopping is on the way, so that soon nobody need even pick up the phone to QVC or Racing Green, let alone drive to Thurrock for a retail orgy. Rather than a respite in the national shopping phase, it will be an aggravated phase. Human beings will not have to interact with one another in the street at all, but only with idealised and artfully lit products, so that like monkeys in a laboratory we need only push buttons to achieve surges of pleasure. As buying grows ever easier and faster, the pleasure will grow more elusive, the need for a hit ever greater.

No wonder politicians are so quiet on the subject of shopping and shopping diseases. They are scared. So am I.

General Chi's big lie

Tiananmen is still taboo, says

Jonathan Mirsky

Military etiquette must have been strained last week among several hundred American military officers at the US National Defense University when General Chi Haotian, China's Defence Minister, solemnly pronounced: "I can tell you in a responsible and serious matter that at that time not a single person lost his life in Tiananmen Square."

As Nicholas Burns, the State Department's pugnacious spokesman, commented, this is "unfortunate" and "inaccurate". I was in Tiananmen on the night of June 3, 1989 and saw people shot down. Western photographers took pictures of bodies in hospital morgues.

In Washington DC on a ten-day visit which included a chat with President Clinton, General Chi was answering a Navy officer's question about what happened that night. He admitted there had been some "pushing" of "hooligans" who egged on "students" staging a "sit-in" in Tiananmen Square. He guaranteed that such things would not recur.

President Clinton rescheduled his meeting with General Chi to avoid International Human Rights Day, but he barely raised the issue with his guest. Yet General Chi's statement was too much for Nicholas Burns. His words "inaccurate" and "unfortunate" might also be used, however, of the Defense Department's biographical handout about General Chi, which omits to say that he was in operational command on the night of the Tiananmen killings. Pressed by journalists to justify the omission, the spokesman said that General Chi had not been "the architect" of the killings.

No political issue is more sensitive in China than the Tiananmen Square repression. I hope it shames General Chi when I say that although only four graves are known, estimates of the dead in Peking range from 500 to 3,000. The killing was seen by tens of thousands. Similar repression, barely known in the West, is acknowledged to have taken place in more than 80 cities that June, with thousands of deaths. After the violence came the nationwide interrogations, imprisonments and executions of thousands more. All these people had friends and relatives. In their hearts, therefore, a substantial number of Chinese demand an accounting and a "revelation of verdicts". One of the few who made her demand out loud was Professor Ding Zhilin, of Peking's People's University, whose son was killed in Tiananmen Square, and who organised a petition of other mothers who lost their children. She was first placed under house arrest and then sent into remote exile.

Congressman Chris Smith invited General Chi to testify to the House International Operations and Human Rights subcommittee, which he chairs. What sort of evidence would General Chi marshal to counter eyewitness stories, if he chose to stick to the line that "not a single person lost his life"? I cannot imagine.

There is a tumbled bridge near the Tiananmen gate, over which hangs a huge portrait of Mao Zedong. For millions of Chinese who visit the square from around the country, this is a place to stand and have a picture taken. Late on June 3, 1989, I was beaten there by People's Armed Police, wielding long truncheons. Around me, Chinese were suffering the same treatment — but when they were knocked to the ground other armed police shot them. Next morning, I lay flat on the street as People's Liberation Army soldiers mowed down members of a crowd milling about in front of the Peking Hotel, perhaps 100 yards from the square. They were trying to enter it to search for their relatives. When an ambulance from a nearby hospital arrived, the soldiers shot its doctors too.

Nicholas Kristoff of *The New York Times*, who was in the Square that night, reported "the troops began shooting... some people fell to the ground, wounded or dead... each time the soldiers fired again and more people fell to the ground." When he went to the Xiehe Hospital, the nearest to the square "it was a bloody mess, with hundreds of injured lying on the floors... I saw the bullet holes in the ambulances."

Jan Wong of *The Toronto Globe and Mail*, looking down from a balcony in the Peking Hotel with Cathy Sampson of this newspaper, "watched in horror as the army shot directly into the crowds... people fell with gaping wounds". Later, she reported, "The soldiers strafed ambulances and shot medical workers trying to rescue the wounded". Jan Wong, 14 floors above me when I saw people being shot in front of the hotel, wrote "I counted more than twenty bodies". I crawled away, but she kept watching. "In all," she reported, "I recorded eight long murderous volleys. Dozens died before my eyes." The enraged crowd, which up to that point had been shouting "kill [Premier] Li Peng," sometimes drifted away when it rained, but would soon return. When it did, "many more people died". Jan Wong remembers thinking "How strange it was that Pekingers didn't want to get wet, but they weren't afraid of getting killed." Nor were General Chi's soldiers afraid of killing them.

Weston union

THE HUGE grin on the face of John Weston, the British Ambassador to the United Nations, when he came sprinting out of Friday's meeting of the Security Council after the new Secretary-General had been chosen, was due to more than exuberance. He had just been engaged in his favourite pastime: getting one over the French.

He took the waiting journalists by surprise, emerging from the conclave to brief them a fair clip ahead of the pack. With America, Britain had ensured that Kofi Annan, an American-educated Ghanaian, overcame the blocking tactics of the French, who wanted to appoint one of several French-speaking candidates.

Weston's colleagues from his days as Ambassador to Nato in Brussels recall his tussles with the French. He was the first and last Ambassador in Nato memory actually to storm out of a meeting in a rage, after being needed by the French Ambassador, Gabrielle Robin. Quite right too, after Robin had snidely remarked "We are used to telling stories".

To round off the chaos of the meeting, when Weston returned, he was so flustered he managed to

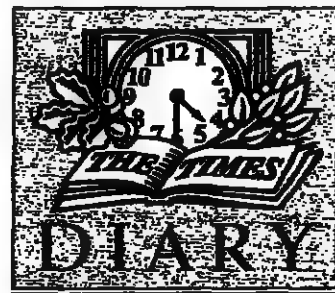
insult the German Ambassador at which point Manfred Wörner, who was then the Nato Secretary-General, intervened, saying: "Now, now children, let's behave more like adults."

Place cards

GEOGRAPHY lessons are in order for Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, who grew horribly confused when buying the



Our man Weston



stamps for his Christmas cards in the House of Commons post office the other day.

He was told by the clerk that there were three rates for foreign mail: one for the world except Europe, one for the EU, and one for European countries outside the EU.

Smith rifled through his cards, then asked "Is Israel in Europe?" Although it competes in the Eurovision Song contest, he was told, it is not in Europe.

"What about Switzerland," he then said, "is that in the EU?"

Choke out

TURNING OUT for the Department of Transport ranks low on most celebrities' public appearances lists. So the department found itself embarrassed when it had to

find one to launch its consultative document on new car licence plates to replace the current batch, which will soon run out of letters. The department booked an Aston Martin showroom in Berkeley Street, London, and then tried to get Jackie Stewart to come. No dice. Stewart was busy.

Damon Hill? Not a chance. Oh, all right, Stirling Moss will do anything. Except, it turned out, appear on behalf of the Department of Transport. So, enter Ernie Thompson, chief executive of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Maybe not so glamorous, but ever so reliable.

● Diplomatic toastmasters are already at work practising introducing the new Secretary-General and his Swedish wife: Kofi and Nane Annan. Not to be attempted after any sly swigs from the sherry bottle.

Take a bow

RETURNING to the screen as the BBC's answer to Melvyn Bragg is Alan Yentob, the director of programmes for BBC television. An uncompromising John Birt man and former controller of BBC1, Yentob has only appeared on television himself in the past few years as an awards presenter and management talking head. Now



All three tenors: washing-day will be the merrier

he has interviewed the rock star David Bowie in a sequel to an interview he did in 1975 as a 28-year-old producer for the *Omnibus* programme.

"Twenty-one years later the time came to interview Bowie again, so who better than Alan Yentob?" explained a Yentob loyalist.

Back in 1975, the two tortured young men drove around the tough streets of LA in a limousine. This time, for *Changes: Bowie at 50*, with waistlines expanded and wardrobes full of Armani, they

booked a suite at the Soho Grand Hotel in Greenwich Village.

● Laundry day in Hampshire House, New York, will be an even noisier affair now that it is home to all three of the Three Tenors. José Carreras has just moved into the block on Central Park South, joining Plácido Domingo and Luciano Pavarotti in a set-up which should be familiar to watchers of Channel 4's *Friends*.

P.H.S.



STORMY WATERS

The Government's passage through the winter looks fraught

The long auction of promises which preceded yesterday's fishing debate, as brazen as any Billingsgate sale, will have done nothing for the standing either of Parliament or this Government. The fishermen and farmers were having their wounds bound rather than their palms greased; but there is little dignified about this anguished proposition of special interests, however deserving. In the month, perhaps even weeks, which remain in this Parliament there will be other close votes which the Government will strain to win with cajolery and concessions.

The fishing industry has been an early beneficiary. The Fisheries Minister, Tony Baldry, unwrapped a pre-Christmas package last month with an extra £12 million for the voluntary decommissioning of fishing vessels, a commitment from the European Commission to consult fishermen more closely on conservation policy and a pledge to re-negotiate the common fisheries policy to end the foreign appropriation of UK fishing quotas. The interests of coastal constituencies addressed, the Government yesterday sought allies across the water with policies presented as friendly to Ulster's producers of fish and beef.

Whether this Government will survive long enough to see significant changes through remains in doubt. Conservative strategists may wish to wait until May before going to the country in the hope that a rising tide of prosperity may carry them to victory. Events may mock such hopes. Even if John Major avoids losing a vote of confidence then any march to the election will involve the skirting of a succession of cliffs. Government by fingernail is unlikely to inspire the electorate.

If the Prime Minister is determined to hold out, he has two sources of solace. The Government's remaining legislative programme is relatively uncontentious. On everything from tax cuts to criminal justice

Labour has declined to alienate potential voters with outright opposition. So room for ambush is limited. Moreover, the Ulster Unionists are still, just, likely to support the Government in most potential confidence votes. The Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, used an interview this weekend to issue a demand for an early election. If Sinn Féin want to accelerate the election it is in Unionist interests to delay. The Leader of the Ulster Unionists, David Trimble, has said that he will do nothing "capricious". That suggests Mr Trimble is, at present, inclined not to end this Parliament prematurely.

Set against those consolations is the possibility of a set-piece vote on a matter where Conservatives who expect general election defeat might be tempted to make a stand and where Unionist support could not be assured. There are enough conceivable occasions of danger to ensure that Tory nerves are strained throughout the winter and spring.

Conservative business managers have exerted themselves to prevent any substantive vote by the Commons on the regulations which will govern European monetary union. Although MPs were allowed to let off steam for two days last week on a general motion prior to the Dublin summit the Tory whips have been strenuous in trying to prevent an occasion arising where the House might divide on a single currency — knowing that such a division would be perilous.

The Conservatives may conclude that it would be better to call a general election early in the new year rather than risk being boxed into a corner. But, whenever an election might be called, the scale of Conservative dissent with the Government's "wait and see" policy will become embarrassingly apparent. However well-drilled MPs are in the Commons, Conservative candidates are unlikely to fall so easily into line.

HEAD TO HEAD

Airbus has redoubled trouble in its flightpath

Europe's political classes chatter ceaselessly about the pros and cons of integrating the defence of Europe; the quantity of talk always exceeds action by a large margin. In the case of Europe's defence and aerospace industries, relatively little public talk occurs; but the industry reorganises itself anyway. It has little choice. The global market is developing so fast that even the most agile European industries have not been quick enough to keep up with preparations for the 21st century. The merger of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to form the world's largest aerospace company should further concentrate European minds.

The effective absorption of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing eliminates another rival from a world market in civilian airliners which is becoming a head-to-head contest between Boeing and Airbus Industrie. Aircraft-building firms coalesce into larger and larger units because only the largest revenue-earners can pay for the development of an ambitious and expensive project to design a new wide-bodied passenger aircraft and by the firm's elimination from the short-list to develop America's new military strike jet. The latter contract was won by a joint bid headed by Boeing.

Recent transatlantic competition to sell jets underlines that while Airbus is big and unwieldy, Boeing is big and witty. In 1994, Airbus briefly topped Boeing's total of aircraft sold, but has since fallen behind because it offers an alternative to Boeing in all markets except for jumbo jets.

Both manufacturers now have long order books thanks to the rationalisation of airlines in the US and economic growth creating cash-rich buyers. But Airbus cur-

rently remains a coordinating and marketing company, controlled by British Aerospace, France's Aerospatiale, Germany's Daimler-Benz and Spain's CASA. Each shareholding firm is guaranteed quotas of work, limiting the firm's ability to shop around for the most competitive prices. The companies have agreed to create a giant company, which would include a large segment of Europe's aeronautical capacity, but the negotiations have been painfully slow. To no one's great surprise, Aerospatiale and its state shareholders in Paris have been the most markedly reluctant to move the goalposts. French governments enjoy talking about "building Europe" but, when it comes to construction work which involves loosening the State's grip on what civil servants see as a national economic interest, quite different priorities apply.

In a revealing and dispiriting loss of nerve this month, the French Government stopped the sale of the ailing electronic business Thomson to Korea's Daewoo. Airbus will only be reformed as an agile and aggressive company if its sponsors have the self-confidence to look beyond the near term to the survival requirements of a major aircraft manufacturer over the next two decades. Lumbering consortiums vulnerable to politicians' whims will not hold off the next challenge, the big Asian manufacturing businesses which fancy their chances in the airliner market.

French defensiveness is all the odder in the light of the country's powerful exporting performance over the last few years. If Airbus cares to look at the way in which Boeing has successfully adapted to the challenge from Europe, its executives will see that they now have no good grounds for either hesitation or complacency.

A JOKE AND A JAR A DAY

Social surveys should be entertainment as well as science

Laughter and alcohol (in moderation) are good for you. A scientific survey by researchers at the University of Hull finds this to be so; so it must be true. Dr Geoff Lowe yesterday presented the findings to a meeting of the British Psychological Society, thus confirming the unscientific justifications down the millennia of men moving unsteadily home from the inn.

For not only can jokes and a drink interact medically to improve the circulation of the blood and stimulate the phagocytes; a questionnaire answered by 332 social drinkers on Humber-side shows that those who drank more were mentally less stressed and more inclined to see the funny side of life.

Some aspects of the Hull experiment were rigorous as well as merely interrogative. Two groups of people were asked to watch the first 20 minutes of *The Naked Gun*. Statistics plotted on graphs and illustrated by pie diagrams showed that those who were given two bottles of strong lager laughed more than the control group, who received an alcohol-free drink that only tasted like lager. A gloriously tacky spoof topped off the evening with a hilarious, hoary cliché and laddish silliness can provide more fun than Merchant-Ivory *bons mots* or more fun than Woody Allen victimising — if observed through a friendly mist of a few drinks.

For such endlessly tasteless and unsophisticated juvenilia would make an audience

ashamed of laughing itself into a stupor, unless it were already half stupefied. This connection between laughter and alcohol has been suspected since Bacchus cracked the first joke, and then told it back to front. But the job of research is to confirm such archetypal folklore. Just as man needs science to solve all the problems he would not have if there were no science, so he needs research to verify his primitive prejudices. The research industry consists largely of such verification projects, as can be seen from any catalogue of proposed doctoral theses from a modern university. Such ancient platitudes as Murphy's Law — "if anything can go wrong, it will" — have been demonstrated by a dozen research projects at considerable expense.

But not only are alcohol and jokes now officially good for us. Scientific surveys must be good for us too. Being stopped in public by researchers with clipboards and imperious questions is one of the pleasures of life, we are told, especially if there are cameras to record instant fame. The psychologists in Hull who thought of researching local pubs in order to conduct their quantity survey of jolliness knew they had a good topic. But their findings as well as their methodology are philanthropic. They have not only confirmed an unproved ancestral suspicion. By their own actions, they must also have improved the public health.

Balancing risks is a risky business

From Mr James Rothman

Sir, Nigel Hawkes (*Mind and Matter*, December 9) asks for a Richter-type scale that enables different risks to be compared. I suggest the number of deaths (or possibly unfortunate events) per thousand person years spent on the activity. This is the same as 8.75 million people engaging in the activity for an hour.

On this "Rothman scale of risk", in terms of death, driving a car scores about 1.5, walking 2.25, cycling 6 and riding a motorcycle nearly 50. Accidental deaths in normal life score about 0.2.

This measure seems to me to be better than suggestions involving logarithmic scales since it is easier to understand and increases with increasing risk. It also has the advantage that unlike deaths per thousand people it takes into account the fact that we spend more time on some activities than others.

My only concern is that people may think that all the numbers indicate greater risks than is in fact the case. Even 50 for riding a motorcycle represents quite a small risk for the occasional rider. Nigel Hawkes mentions playing Russian roulette. Allowing a generous hour per game this scores about 1.5 million.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES ROTHMAN (Consultant in marketing and economic research),
25 Norfolk Road, NW8,
December 9.

From Dr John Adams

Sir, "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making" according to the Royal Statistical Society. Nigel Hawkes quotes the risk of dying in a road accident — 1 in 8,000 — as an example of a potentially useful statistic. The number, based on last year's data, is closer to 1 in 16,000. But this error is trivial compared to the complications that would arise should an individual seek to base a decision upon it.

A young man is 100 times more likely to die in a road accident than a middle-aged woman; someone driving at 3am, Sunday, 134 times more likely than someone driving at 10am, Sunday; someone with a personality disorder ten times, and someone two and half times over the alcohol limit, 20 times. If these factors were all independent of each other one could predict that a disturbed, drunken young man driving at 3am Sunday would be about 2.7 million times more likely to die than a normal, sober, middle-aged woman driving to church a few hours later.

These four factors, of course, are not independent: there are probably proportionately more drunken and disturbed young men on the road in the early hours of the morning than at other times of day. But I have listed only four complicating factors from a very long list. Does the car have worn brakes, bald tyres, a loose suspension, a valid tax disc? Is the road well-lit, dry, foggy, straight, narrow, clear, congested? Is the driver sleepy, angry, aggressive, on drugs?

There is reason to suppose that all these factors, plus many more, can influence your chances of arriving safely. Whether the number used in the Richter scale for road accidents is 16,000 or 1:16,000, it is difficult to see how it could serve as the basis of a decision.

Using past accident rates to estimate future risks can be positively misleading. There are many dangerous roads with good accident records because they are perceived to be dangerous — children are forbidden to cross them; old people are afraid to, and fit adults cross them quickly and carefully.

The good accident record is purchased at the cost of community severance. But the good accident record gets used as a basis for decision-making: officially the road is deemed safe, and in need of no measures to calm the traffic.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN ADAMS,
University College London,
Geography Department,
26 Bedford Way, WC1,
December 10.

Care of South Downs

From Councillor Mark Dunn

Sir, As a member of Chichester District Council whose own ward comprises some 25 square miles of South Downs countryside, and as a member of the development control committee of this, one of the largest planning authorities in the South Downs area, I can assure the nine signatories to today's letter that there is nothing "fragile" or "vulnerable" about the existing legislative and constitutional systems protecting the South Downs, that glorious part of our heritage, from sectional and ill-judged development plans.

It follows that there is no need for them to canvass for the establishment of a National Park where those responsible for overall management and conservation would not be elected, would not be local, and would not have to face up to constant review by an educated and well-informed electorate.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DUNN,
Witham, Stoughton,
Chichester, West Sussex,
December 11.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Debate on rules of royal succession

From Mr Nigel Miskin

Sir, It hardly seems opportune, with all the vital issues now before the public, to initiate a debate and take up parliamentary time on so rarified a question as whether women should have equal rights to succeed to the throne (report, December 10; article, December 11).

The point raised may have some emotional significance for the politically correct, but its greatest impact would be on the successor to Prince William (assuming he becomes king) several decades from now. Is it not rather arrogant for us to presume to dictate to future generations in this way?

Also, is there any precedent for postponing or abrogating the vested rights of those already in the order of succession (in this case the Princess Royal being raised above the Duke of York, his little daughters and Prince Edward) without any grave political reason to do so?

I would not like to dwell on a future likely consequence, namely the appearance at the Bar of the House of Lords of dozens of hopeful ladies and gentlemen claiming, on grounds of "fairness", to revive extinct hereditary peerages.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL MISKIN,
149 Hurlingham Road, SW6,
December 11.

Handgun legislation

From Mr Richard Butler

Sir, I am a licensed firearms holder and the owner of handguns, including 9mm and .375 calibre. I own these solely for the purpose of target shooting and have taken part in various competitions in the UK. I do not consider myself an expert shot but I enjoy the sport.

The Firearms (Amendment) Bill currently going through Parliament will effectively put an end to all this. I believe that the proposed legislation is wrong and misguided but if it becomes law, so be it.

I find it somewhat presumptuous of Mrs Sarah Cooper and her co-signatories (letter, December 10) to expect the legislation to make a special case for them on the grounds that they are an elite group of marksmen/women who can win medals for Great Britain.

Either the Bill fails and all pistol owners can continue to enjoy target shooting, or it passes and it applies to everyone, irrespective of their shooting ability.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BUTLER,
14 Rue Saint Louis en L'Île,
75004 Paris,
December 16.

From Mr J. H. Kinto

Sir, Whilst I sympathise with the Olympic and Commonwealth Games pistol shooters' letter it does seem somewhat selfish. What about the next generation of marksmen? How are they to be selected if they cannot learn to shoot?

What they should be saying is that this is yet more busy, bad legislation. The buying public needs a scapegoat and weak politicians are ever ready to oblige.

As a taxpayer who does not shoot pistols I suppose I should be grateful that such woefully inadequate compensation is to be offered. My sense of justice tells me that this compounds the scandal.

Yours truly,
JOHN KINTO,
Brushwood Farm,
Wantage Road, Fritford Heath,
Abingdon, Oxfordshire,
December 16.

Hong Kong passports

From Mr B. M. Suchak

Sir, I regret that I am unable to place a great deal of reliance on the assurance given by Chris Patten (report, December 9) that, without evidence to the contrary, holders of the British Nationality Selection Scheme passports given to Hong Kong citizens in 1990 will be considered as unquestionably British after the transfer of sovereignty next summer.

All British passports may "look alike" to Mr Patten but they most certainly are not alike in their worth. British Overseas Citizens, British Protected Persons, British Nationals (Overseas) and British Subjects are all British nationals under the British Nationality Act, 1981, but they do not

Gibraltar's sovereignty

From Sir Frederic Bennett

Sir, Mr James Nation (letter, December 9) attempts to align the constitutional situation of Hong Kong with that of Gibraltar, as the former approaches its handover to China next year, implying that this proves the UK cannot be trusted not to surrender the sovereignty of the latter to another power. Such an attempt is entirely misconceived.

Hong Kong has been held in British hands as a leasehold territory. That lease expires in 1997, as a matter of internationally recognised law, disputed by no one. Per contra, Gibraltar is a "freehold" British Crown colony and will so remain as long as its own inhabitants so decide.

In 1968, in my capacity as the

From Mr J. D. Semken

Sir, I do hope that those who support the principle of sexual equality in all things will bear in mind that legislation to secure that end in relation to the succession to the throne might well destroy the monarchy.

The effect of such legislation would be to create a usurping line, so that at some time in the future a princess would not go to her coronation as undoubted Sovereign of this realm. Moreover, she would go to Westminster Abbey accompanied not only by her husband and children, but by her brother, the disinherited heir, and his family whom all the world would be watching for signs of resentment.

Inevitably, the feeling would grow that, rather than that A should bow to B (when properly B should be bowing to A), would it not be less embarrassing if nobody bowed to anybody?

There are some things which Parliament cannot do. It cannot alter history and it cannot alter facts. And, if the Coronation Oath is to have any substance, there are some things which Parliament ought not even to try to do, gratuitously and without compelling reason.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SEMKEN,
2 The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, NW7,
December 9.

Willets affair

From Mr G. R. Whitten

Sir, You report today that the Prime Minister praised Mr David Willets for "the dignified way that you have conducted yourself". *The Times* says he "deserves credit for... leaving with grace and speed" (leading article, December 12).

Bruce Anderson, however, blows the gaff on these noble sentiments when he writes on the page opposite your leader of "a sensible decision: a short-term sacrifice which will work to his long-term advantage".

Clearly, the restoration of parliamentary probity is still far from being a universal priority.

Yours faithfully,
G. R. WHITTEN,
2 Raglan Terrace,
Monmouth Road,
Abergavenny, Monmouthshire,
December 12.

From Mrs M. Hundleby

Sir, My husband, an old Lincolnshire man, Willets the word want all the time — "Does this book want to go in the case?"... "Does this suitcase want to go in the car?"

So far, he has not accused me of dissembling.

Yours sincerely,
MARION HUNDLEBY,
35 Kelross Road, NS,
December 12.

MPs' pay

From Mr Granville Davies

Sir, The suggestion that higher pay may be one way to continue to attract good judges (article, Law, December 10) reminds me of the recent substantial wage increase awarded themselves by MPs.

Not only has their parliamentary performance sharpened immeasurably, but we can look forward to a high incursion of new talent at the forthcoming general election, probably.

Yours truly,
GRANVILLE DAVIES,
5 Warren Road, Warren Road,
Crowborough, East Sussex,
December 10.

have right of entry to the United Kingdom — a country of which they are nationals.

Those British Overseas Citizens who have connections with East African countries were deprived of their right to come and live in the United Kingdom in 1968 and many of them are still languishing in East Africa and elsewhere (particularly in India).

They have suffered the indignity of being deprived of their nationality altogether by being euphemistically called British Overseas Citizens. They should more properly have been described as British Outcast Citizens.

I remain, yours faithfully,
B. M. SUCHAK,
Suchak & Co (solicitors),
472 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex,
December 6.

constitutional adviser to the Integration with Britain Party then in office in Gibraltar. I was entrusted with drafting the preamble to the agreement signed by the British Government. This recognised in perpetuity the unfettered rights of self-determination for and by Gibraltarians.

Yours etc,
FREDERIC BENNETT,
Plus Cwmlecoedog,
Aberangell, nr Machynlleth, Powys,
December 12.

With the postal delays that often occur at this time of year, it is useful, where possible, for letters that are intended for publication to be faxed to 0171-782 5046. Please give contact telephone numbers.

Debt to surviving PoWs of Japanese

From Mr Anthony L. Burton

Sir, The treatment of British PoWs forced to build the railway in Siam (now Thailand) during the Second World War was considered so bad that for the first time ever a compensation clause was included in the 1951 peace treaty.

Japan, defeated and broke, could only offer to each country their frozen assets to be used for this purpose. Here in Great Britain this worked out at only £72 for each former PoW.

The Japanese maintain that they have paid the amount agreed and that there can be no further claims (report, December 5). One suspects that creating a precedent is greatly feared, as this would lead to a flood of claims from other countries, such as China, which could not possibly be met. Both the British and the Japanese know that countermeasures cannot be taken as we are too involved commercially; and time is not on the side of these PoWs — even those who are still living must be aged 70 or over.

Bearing in mind that our Government signed away our claims for a pittance, surely it should advance the £135 million at issue to the remaining survivors. It could then demand reimbursement on some future occasion, when Japan may want something from us, such as our support for their membership of the Security Council. By that time there probably will be no survivors left.

Yours,
A. L. BURTON
(PoW, Siam, 1942-45),
57 Fairacres,
Roehampton Lane, SW15,
December 10.

Future of Royal Yacht

From Mr A. V. Alexander and Mr William Clarke

Sir, There was a strong demand in the House of Lords this week for an early decision on the future of the Royal Yacht *Britannia* (report, December 11). Lord Ashbourne, chairman of the all-party Royal Yacht parliamentary group, put the point succinctly, asking: "Has not the Government sat on the fence for long enough?"

Since the present Royal Yacht will complete her last voyage, before replacement or decommissioning, when she takes the Prince of Wales to Hong Kong next summer, such a decision is becoming urgent. The Cabinet committee examining its future was originally expected to announce decisions by the end of 1995, both about the building and financing of a new vessel and about the future of the present vessel.

On that basis the Greenwich Britannia Project put in a formal bid to the Cabinet committee in the autumn of 1995 for the present Royal Yacht to be berthed permanently in Greenwich, with its unique royal, naval and maritime associations. Just ahead of the millennium celebrations, we set out exactly how that decision would benefit the nation, and we outlined possible methods of finance.

Although we were promised an early decision, the Cabinet committee later indicated a delay since the disposal of the present vessel was naturally linked to any decision about a new vessel. That was six months ago. Meanwhile fundraising opportunities (dare one say lottery heritage applications?) are being missed month by month. This is one decision that should not await the election.

Yours sincerely,
A. V. ALEXANDER,
WILLIAM CLARKE,
Joint Chairmen,
Greenwich Britannia Project,
12 Crooms Hill,
Greenwich, SE10,
December 11.

An orderly life

From Mr D. B. Harrison

Sir, It is said that when Mrs Chesterton received the telegram from her husband asking where he ought to be (letter, December 7) she replied: "Come home."

She thought it would be better to get him home and set him off again than to try to redirect him from Market Harborough to his correct destination.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS HARRISON,
2 Leicester Close,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
December 9.

Wise after the event

From Mr Alistair Dickson

Sir, The possible identity of "three wise men" who might attend the birth of a present-day Jesus has, over recent Christmas, entertained and stimulated a lively conversation amongst friends. Several of the names suggested have been people long deceased, which may be an indication that wisdom is less prevalent today or is only appreciated posthumously.

I would personally be content with the compassion and wisdom of the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and an old shepherd I know.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR DICKSON,
Lanrick Estate Office,
The Broich Farm, Doune, Perthshire,
December 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this afternoon gave a luncheon at Frogmore House, Windsor Home Park.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Prince of Wales this afternoon visited the offices of *Perspectives* magazine at Hyde Street, London W1.

Today's royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the College of Occupational Therapists, will open the new facilities at the Maudsley Hospital, SE5, at 4.00.

The Duke of Kent will attend the Bach Choir concert at St James's Palace at 6.00.

Princess Alexandra will attend a Joy to the World Christmas celebration at the Albert Hall at 7.15.

Service dinner

Combined Cadet Force
Admiral Sir Peter Abbot, Commander-in-Chief Fleet, was the principal guest at the annual officers' dinner of the Combined Cadet Force Association held last night at the Imperial Hotel, London. General Sir Geoffrey Howlett presided and Lieutenant-Colonel R.F. Somerset, of Winchester College, was chairman of the dinner. Major-General A.M. Keeling, Major-General P.C. Stapleton, Air Vice-Marshal P.J. Harding and Air Vice-Marshal R. Honey were among the guests.

Luncheon

Cardiff Business Club
The High Sheriff of South Glamorgan, Mr R.V. Rees and the Deputy Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Councillor Max Phillips, were present at a luncheon held by the Club yesterday in honour of the Hon Nicholas Soames, Minister of State for the Armed Forces. Mr Brian K. Thomas, Chairman, Cardiff Business Club, presided.

Today's birthdays

Mr Peter Blackburn, president, Nestlé France, 56; Dame Mary Cartwright, former Mistress, Girton College, Cambridge, 96; Professor Mark Casson, economist, 51; Mr Christopher Cazenove, actor, 51; Mr David Collett, chairman, Volunteer Centre, 64; Lord de Villiers, 84; Lord Glenamara, CH, 84; Mr Bernard Hill, actor, 82; Miss Gwendoline Kirby, former mayor, Great Ormond St Hospital for Sick Children, 85; the Hon Dominic Lawson, Editor, *The Sunday Telegraph*, 40;

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 16: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, today received Lieutenant-Colonel Jolyon Williams on assuming the appointment of Regimental Secretary and Colonel Joseph Hordern on relinquishing the appointment.

Christening

The infant daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Little was christened Georgia Elsie Medina by the Rev John Robson, Chaplain to the Queen, at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, on Thursday, December 12. The godparents are Sir Michael Richardson, Mr Adam Signy, Mrs Corale Mue-Cowper and Mrs Sara Watkins.

Institute of Biology

The following have been elected as Fellows and may use the designatory letters CIBiol FIBiol: Professor William Allen, Professor Colin Blakemore, Dr Leonard Brookes, Dr Roger Casey, Dr Susan Duke, Dr Michael Elliott, Dr Peter Harman, Mr Trevor Harvey, Dr Graham Jenkins, Dr Keith Kendrick, Professor Brian Legg, Dr Ronald Lewis-Smith, Dr Robert Moor, Dr Jeremy Roberts, Dr John Speakman.

School news

Northwood Preparatory School
The Governors are pleased to announce that Mr Trevor Lee, currently Headmaster of Hendon Preparatory School, has been appointed to succeed Mr Nigel Flynn as Headmaster in April 1997 and congratulate Mr Flynn on his appointment as Headmaster of Twickenham Preparatory School.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn

In memory of the late Rabbi Gryn, a scholarship fund will be set up for students in the Adenick College - a place he loved.

Information: Adenick College, Llanwrtyd Major, Wales, CF81 1WJ. Tel: 01779 4009.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the Kitty Hawk, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 1903.

The battle of the River Plate: the Graf Spee was scuttled off Montevideo, 1939.

The closure of the Suez Canal resulted in petrol rationing, 1956.

The first powered flight was achieved by the Wright brothers in the Kitty Hawk, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, 1903.

University news

Oxford
The Wainwright Fellowship for research into the non-classical archaeology of Northern Africa or the Near East has been awarded to Dr Nigel Spencer (Institute for Archaeology, Oxford University) for three years from January 1997. The 1996 Wainwright Prize has been awarded to Mr Tom Hardwick, Clifton College.

The Queen's College
Elections

Scholarships
Katharine Allen, (formerly of Central Newlands High School); Jonathan S. Barrett (King Edward's School, Birmingham); Jonathan W. Bell (Norwich School); Max E. Bruche (Schule Birklehof, Hünzarten); Charles W. H. Chapman (Arnold School, Blackpool); June S. Christie (Dunottar School, Reigate); Christopher J. Evans (St Mary's Comprehensive School, Ilkley); Eric H. D. Law (Royal Grammar School, Newcastle); Brandon W. Lewis (Matthew Murray High School, Leeds); Piers H. Master (Harrow School); Simon Webster McKnight (Dr Challoner's Grammar School, Amersham); Andrew D. Morrison (The Kings School, Chesham); R. K. M. Ng (Queen's College, Taunton); Andrew J. Peckman (Millfield School); Catherine E. Pearson (Boston Spa Comprehensive School); David Perick (Bolton School, Boys' Division); E. Susan L. Pickford (Christ's Hospital, Horsham); Elizabeth K. Poxon (Carnegie School, York); Richard J. Price (Watford Boys' Grammar School).

Anniversaries

BIRTHS Prince Rupert, royalist commander in the civil war, Prague, 1619; Domenico Cimarosa, composer, Naples, 1749; Sir Humphry Davy, inventor of the miners' safety lamp, Penzance, 1778; John Greenleaf Whittier, poet, Haverhill, Massachusetts, 1807; Jules de Goncourt, diarist, Paris, 1830; Ford Madox Ford, novelist and critic, Merton, Surrey, 1873; W.L. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada 1921-26, 1926-32 and 1935-48, Berlin, Ontario, 1874.

DEATHS Simon Bolivar, Liberator of South America, Santa Marta, Colombia, 1830; William Thomson, 1st Baron Kelvin, physicist, large, Strathclyde, 1907; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, physician and advocate of women's rights to practice medicine, Aldershot, 1907; Sir Bernard Spilsbury, pathologist, London, 1947; Dorothy L. Sayers, detective novelist, essayist and translator, Witham, Essex, 1957; Harold Holt, Prime Minister of Australia 1966-67, drowned off Portsea, Victoria, 1967.

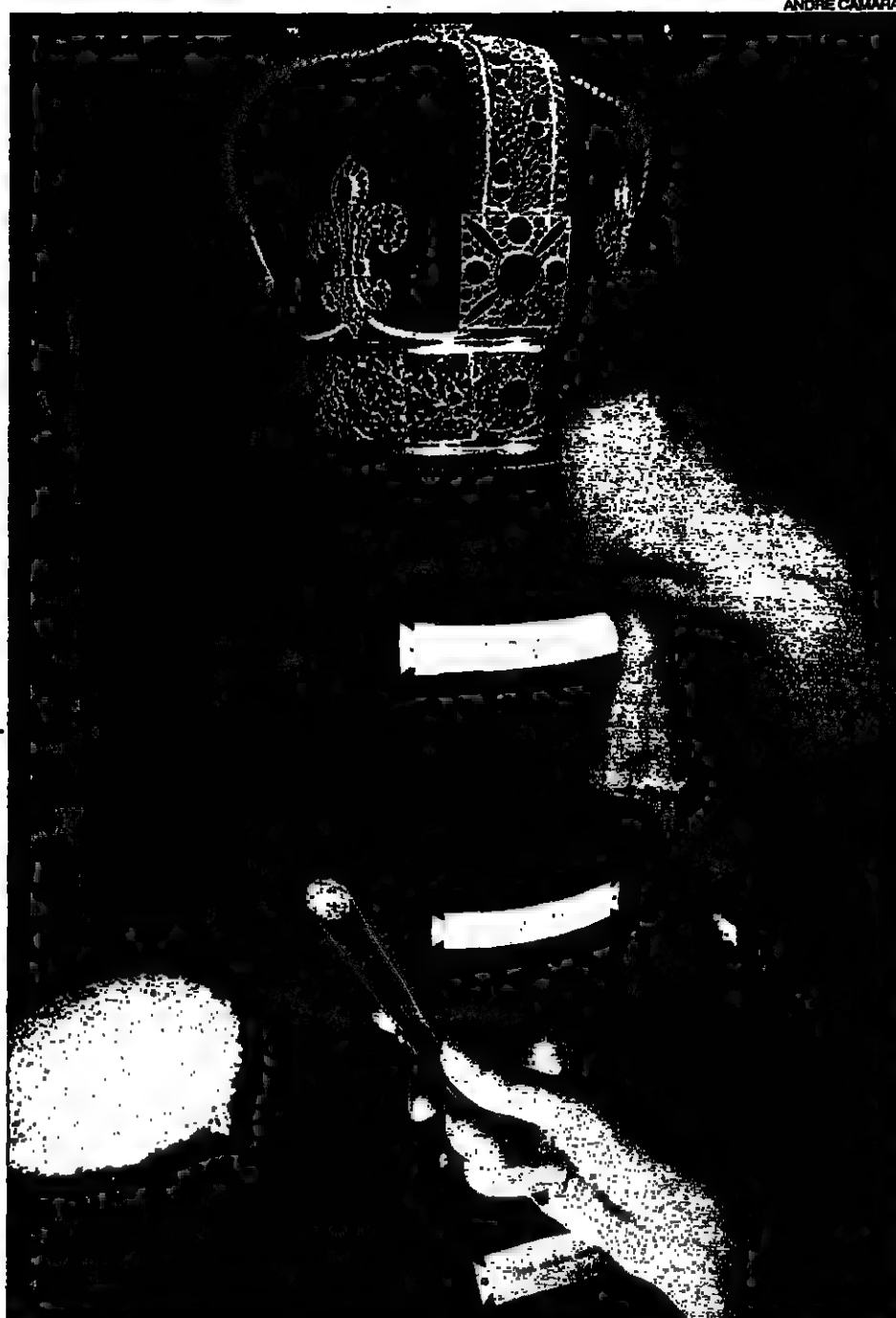
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Anna Key, Assistant Curator at the Tower of London, picks out a £200,000 diamond, one of 12,344 lent by De Beers and worth nearly £2.5 million, for 'Crown and Diamonds' a new permanent exhibition at the Tower. Behind Miss Key is the frame of the Coronation Crown of King George IV which was originally set with that number of diamonds. On show for the first time will be a number of royal crown frames recently given to the Royal Collection by Prince Jefri of Brunei. The exhibition will be opened on Thursday by Virginia Bottomley, Heritage Secretary, and open to the public from Friday.

Stone slabs reveal hidden art

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE discovery of more spectacular examples of megalithic art at an Irish prehistoric tomb has made it the richest concentration in Europe, according to the excavator, Professor George Eogan. The odd position of the finds also suggests that they may have been reused from an earlier, destroyed tomb.

Six slabs, elaborately decorated with concentric circles and spirals pecked into the rock with stone tools, were found in September at Knowth, in the Boyne Valley north of Dublin (*The Times*, September 28, 1996). "It was only when the stones were removed from their sockets that the extent of the art emerged," Professor Eogan

said. "If they had been erected the other way up, the art would have been clearly visible that raises the question of why the art was hidden. It may have been to meet certain ritual demands, but it is also possible that the stones may have come from an earlier tomb that was demolished."

The stones, reused in a different manner, would have had a different ritual meaning. This suggests that practices changed through time, and that there was a long period of tomb building at Knowth.

Professor Eogan's previous excavations have revealed a neolithic village some 5,000 years old underlying the main tomb mound at Knowth, but

this is the first suggestion that megalithic art may also have an earlier history there.

Knowth now has nearly 300 decorated stones, the greatest number from any passage tomb in Europe, Professor Eogan says. "This one site has more stones than are found in the whole Iberian peninsula and in France."

The western tomb, discovered in 1967 but only recently explored, has more than 70 decorated slabs in its 14ft length, and many of these were hidden by the builders. The east tomb and some of the smaller satellite mounds are also decorated; the main mound at Knowth was large enough to have had a castle built on it in the Middle Ages.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.M. Boyden
and **Princess Zahra Aga Khan**
The engagement is announced between Mr. only son of Mr and Mrs Boyden, of England, and Princess Zahra, only daughter of the Aga Khan and Princess Salimah Aga Khan, of France.

Mr A.M.E. Barlow
and **Miss S.L. Chambers**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Barlow, of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and Sarah, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Ray Chambers, of Wendenhall, Cheshire.

Mr B.R. Campbell
and **Miss K.R. Spragg**
The engagement is announced between Benjamin, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.C. Campbell, of Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and Katie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.C. Spragg, of Calbourne, Isle of Wight.

Mr A.C. Dickens
and **Miss A.E. Talbot**
The engagement is announced between Adam, son of the late Mr and Mrs Harry Dickens, of Gaybott, Hampshire, and Alice Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Talbot, of Cerne Abbas, Dorset.

Mr P.S.J. Heath
and **Miss J.K. Windsor**
The engagement is announced between Peter St John, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Heath, of Barn Close, Solihull, and Jacqueline Katharine, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John Wheeler, also of Solihull.

Mr M. Johnson
and **Miss A.C. Dwyer**
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs David Johnson, of Brussels, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nick Duncan, of New Malden, Surrey.

Mr S.J. Donald
and **Miss A. Holland**
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of the late Mr Miles Donald and of Mrs Donald, of London, W1, and Alexandra, elder daughter of Mr David Holland, of Cornwall, and Mrs Wendy Holland, of South Kensington.

Mr D.N.G. Farman
and **Miss S.L.B. Baker**
The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of the late Dr John Farman, of Hauxton, Cambridge, and of the late Mrs Carol Cazon, of Solihull, Cambridgeshire, and Sara, second daughter of the late Professor Peter Baker, FRS, and of Mrs Phyllis Baker, of Bourn, Cambridgeshire.

Mr R.S. Moore
and **Miss L.B. Threlfall**
The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Graham Moore, of Bramley, Surrey, and Lucy, younger daughter of Mrs Nick Williams, of Marston, Gloucestershire, and Mr Jonathan Threlfall, of Sydney, Australia.

Mr J.M.S. Stokes
and **Miss J.C. Ferguson**
The engagement is announced between James Michael Scott, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Stokes, of Brumham, Wiltshire, and Cassandra Leah, only daughter of the late Mr and Mrs David Storey, of Chicago, Illinois, USA.

Mr J.B. Williams
and **Miss J.C. Boyagis**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, younger son of Mr and Mrs Brian Williams, of Kings Walden, Hertfordshire, and Julia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Boyagis, of Holland Park, London.

Latest wills

Sylvia Clementine Edwards
of Shrewsbury, left estate valued at £2,640,627 net.

Margaret Elizabeth Newstead
of Kents Bank, Grange over Sands, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,433,822 net. She left £2,000 to Carmel Fell Church; £1,000 to the Royal UK Scout Association; and £22,500 to the National Trust for the Protection of Animals in North Africa.

Peter John Rose
of Kirtley, East Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,214,879 net.

Edna Lucille Alice Collinson
of Stanmore, Middlesex, left estate valued at £1,977,960 net.

Sibyl Gwendoline Owen
of Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex, left estate valued at £1,207,725 net.

Leonard Charles John Julian
of Chislehurst, Kent, left estate valued at £1,025,938 net.

Betty Mabel Silk
of Headbourne Worthy, Winchester, Hampshire, left estate valued at £1,448,693 net.

Constance Hathway Kemball
of Ridgewood, Uckfield, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,121,870 net.

Alfred Sidney Rudge
of Downend, Bristol, left estate valued at £510,238 net.

Joyce Doreen May
of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £2,076,655 net.

Marion Veronica Ingram
of Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,249,725 net.

Averil Jeannette Hancock
of St Mawes, Truro, Cornwall, left estate valued at £1,205,520 net.

David Alfred Langford
of London SW13, left estate valued at £845,564 net.

Rosemary Joan Noakes
of London SW19, left estate valued at £530,615 net.

David Cormouls Hunter
Moos, of West Orleton, Pembroke, left estate valued at £790,441 net.

Sheila Beaham-Powell
of Compton Bishop, Asbridge, Somerset, left estate valued at £623,783 net.

Alfred Benson
of Sneyd Park, Bristol, left estate valued at £576,275 net.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

BIRTHS

ALABASTER - On December 11th 1996 at the Portland Hospital, to Rasha Alabaster and John Alabaster, a gorgeous girl, Douglas, 4lb 10oz, 19in long.

BAILEY - On 12th December 1996, to Mrs and Mr John Bailey, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 19in long.

BEST-SHAW - On 20th November 1996, to Mrs and Mr John Best-Shaw, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 19in long.

BRANDON - On 12th December 1996, to Mrs and Mr John Brandon, a son, James, 7lb 10oz, 19in long.

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DEATHS

BAILEY - On December 11th, to Jane and Robert, a daughter, Rebecca, 7lb 10oz, 19in long.

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OBITUARIES

SIR LAURENS VAN DER POST

Sir Laurens van der Post, writer and explorer, died yesterday aged 90. He was born in South Africa on December 13, 1906.

In an age of rampant materialism, Laurens van der Post was a passionate and prominent champion of spiritual values. The precise nature of his spirituality was not always clear, and his more Messianic pronouncements could seem both portentous and imprecise; but the views he expressed in more than two dozen books struck a chord with millions of readers, and made him an influential confidant of public figures as diverse as Margaret Thatcher and the Prince of Wales.

Part man-of-action, part mystic, he distilled in his work a lifetime's varied experience. He had been an explorer and a soldier, a farmer and a conservationist, a campaigner and a dreamer. But it was as a prophet out of Africa that he won for himself a niche in English life and letters, with his intensely felt and emotionally expressed evocations of that continent's landscape and peoples, and his insistence on the message he believed it to hold in trust for the West.

"I feel myself," he wrote, "to have become a kind of improvised footbridge across the widening chasm between Europe and Africa." As the chasm widened, van der Post came more and more to equate the primitive peoples of the Africa he had known in childhood with those non-rational, instinctive and intuitive aspects of the human psyche whose satisfaction and expression he believed to be vital to the sanity, even the survival, of civilised man.

Dreams were for him the link between the worlds of the primitive and the technological and he liked to describe how, in his boyhood, his habit of dreaming got him into trouble with the sober, Calvinist, Bible-reading Afrikaner family from which he sprang.

Laurens van der Post was born, the thirteenth of 15 children, at Philippolis in the Orange Free State (of whose Volksraad, or state legislature, his father had been chairman) and educated at a country school and then at Grey College, Bloemfontein.

In his late teens he became a journalist on a paper in Durban, eventually becoming its shipping correspondent. After

travels which included a series of journeys with a Norwegian whaling captain, and a trip to the Far East with the novelist William Plomer, he arrived in London. There he struck up the first of his many friendships with famous 20th-century figures, when he made the acquaintance of John Maynard Keynes, the Woolfs, and the other leading lights of Bloomsbury.

Married to a South African, Marjorie Wendt, and with two young children, for a while in the 1930s he combined writing — his novel *In a Province* appeared in 1934 — with dairy farming in Gloucestershire. He was later to describe these years as the unhappiest of his life; both the writing and the farming went well, but he was oppressed by a sense of impending world catastrophe.

War was to mark the beginning of his long journey of self-discovery. Packing his wife and children off to South Africa, he enlisted in the British Army. In 1941 and 1942 he served with the commandos and led guerrilla groups behind enemy lines in Abyssinia and the Dutch East Indies. In 1943 he was captured in Java by the Japanese.

Three years in PoW camps forged in him a philosophy, mystical in character and therefore elusive in words. His toughness and bravery in the face of appalling treatment from his guards is well documented. He later ascribed it to the discovery within himself of "another person" or "other voice."

Although he had no doubt of the rightness of bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, he always insisted that he bore no rancour towards the Japanese. In *A Bar of Shadow*, later republished with two companion pieces as *The Sower and the Seed*, a memorable portrait of a brutal yet honourable Japanese sergeant lent weight to what may claim to be a minor classic in the literature of war. In 1933 it was filmed as *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*, with the pop star David Bowie in a leading role.

On release he joined Mountbatten's staff as GSO1, took part in quelling disorders in Java and attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. In 1947 he was appointed CBE. Regarding himself after the war as a changed man, he set about building a new life. His first marriage was dissolved in 1948, and in 1949 he married Ingeborg Giffard, an English actress, novelist, and playwright.



With her support, he resumed what was to become a prolific career as a writer. From an investigation into the economic possibilities of the forests which clothed Mount Mlange in Malawi, van der Post found material for his *Venture to the Interior*, in which the introspective and the romantic were happily blended with a sensitivity to the spirit of place that recalled the early D. H. Lawrence.

Meanwhile he had fallen under the spell of Carl Gustav Jung. In whose doctrines he found a theoretical basis for his empirical beliefs. In *The Dark Eye in Africa*, published in 1954, he developed his theme of the complementary nature of

those elements in the human psyche symbolised by black and white.

The black he equated with the instinctive and pagan aspects, the white with logic, reason and intellectual discipline. In a healthy society, these forces should be balanced as the positive and negative charges of electricity balanced to produce a flow of energy. In our own society, the "white" forces have swelled into an exaggerated materialism and crushed the creative "black" forces of myth, mysticism and imagination.

"Without myth, the life of a people lacks direction and meaning." The great need of our time, he urged, was to recapture our

myths, and in the "miraculously preserved archaic quality of Africa" we should seek them. "The world apprehends that Africa may hold the secret of its own lost and hidden being."

In 1952 he had visited the Kalahari Desert, and he returned there later to make television films. The nomadic Bushmen he saw as almost the last survivors of an ancient Stone Age culture complete with the intuitive, semi-magical powers in which he so ardently believed.

In two resulting books, *The Lost World of the Kalahari* and *The Heart of the Hunter*, his powers of vivid description, sensitivity to atmosphere and human sympathy found full scope. If his life's work had a central creed, it was perhaps that we must "redeem the Bushman in all of us, before it is too late."

Van der Post could write only when his emotions were engaged and the "dark man" within was on the qui vive. If everything tended to be a little larger than life, including his own shadow, this for most readers added to the enrichment of life in an age when it is more fashionable to denigrate and diminish than to magnify and praise.

In 1964 he brought out *Journey Into Russia*, and four years later a *Portrait of Japan* which, written without bitterness, sought out beneath the ugliness of Westernisation an ancient beauty and faith. In 1976 *Jung and the Story of Our Time* told of his relationship with the great philosopher-psychiatrist and of the origins and growth of Jung's philosophy. In lighter vein, *First Catch Your Eland* (1977) discoursed on African and other exotic ways of cooking. "Studying grasses and cooking in winter" were listed in *Who's Who* among his recreations.

A charismatic personality and a persuasive speaker, he had a high public profile for so introspective and private a man, and he was not afraid to enter political debates. He never forgot his Afrikaner origins, but was an early and outspoken opponent of apartheid, seeking to warn his countrymen of the dangers inherent in their policy, spiritual as well as political, rather than to confront them with demons, boycotts and abuse.

He was to be equally critical of opposition leaders; he insisted that Desmond Tutu did not deserve the Nobel Peace Prize, and described Nelson Mandela as "a miserable figure who

speaks with a double tongue"; he was a keen supporter of Chief Buthezi.

Inherently a preacher and a poet, not a politician, he was a romantic whose diagnosis of the spiritual ills of our time may have been prophetic, but whose remedies, in so far as they can be defined, were vague and perhaps impossible to apply. But his wisdom and personal qualities came to be deeply appreciated by a number of people who occupied more active positions on the public stage.

He was a personal friend of Margaret Thatcher during her premiership, and was among those who counselled her to a policy of firmness during the Falklands crisis. He hailed her handling of the invasion as "a brilliant enterprise of war" and dismissed accusations of jingoism as "radical and liberal slush."

The importance of the individual in van der Post's world view, together with his belief that socialism was "a rotting corpse whose smell in our midst has tainted the political atmosphere far too long," undoubtedly endeared him to the Conservative Prime Minister. He was knighted, on her recommendation, in 1981.

But it was perhaps his emphasis on the collective unconscious, and the link it suggested between a monarch and his subjects, that appealed to the heir to the throne. He was a close and valued friend of the Prince of Wales for decades, and his influence on Prince Charles's interest in spiritual matters was widely felt to be profound. In 1982 he acted as godfather to Prince William, a decision viewed with suspicion by some within the Church of England in the light of his advocacy of a generalised notion of faith rather than adherence to any one Faith — a notion apparently since espoused by the Prince of Wales himself. In 1987 van der Post and Prince Charles went on a five-day retreat in the Kalahari. Last year Sir Laurens was a vigorous defender of the Prince in the aftermath of Diana, Princess of Wales's *Panorama* broadcast.

Although van der Post never relinquished his links with South Africa, he looked on England as his home for more than 50 years, and in the last decades of his life he lived much of the time between Chelsea and Aldeburgh.

He is survived by his second wife, who became a Jungian therapist, and his daughter from his first marriage. His son and his first wife predeceased him.

FIELD MARSHAL SIR JAMES CASSELS

Field Marshal Sir James Cassels, GCB, KBE, DSO, Chief of the General Staff, 1965-68, died on December 13 aged 89. He was born on February 28, 1907.

JIM CASSELS was a soldier's general and a Commonwealth soldier's general in particular. As a brigade commander in 1944 he had performed with conspicuous success during the Normandy campaign and in the early months of the following year in the fierce fighting on the frontiers of the Third Reich. But his reputation as a commander rests chiefly on his unique achievement in creating and commanding the Commonwealth Division during the Korean

War. Later he had an important role during the Healey Defence Reviews, when he had overall charge of the withdrawal from East of Suez and the military problems arising out of Rhodesian UDI. Cassels was well cast as the professional head of the Army. But he was less at home, heading the General Staff in the jungles of Whitehall, especially at a time when the Government was committed to a programme of cuts in the strength of the Armed Forces. He was essentially a battlefield commander rather than a staff officer. His views were based on his operational experience, amassed both at brigade level and while commanding three different divisions.

Archibald James Halkett Cassels was born in Queega. His father General Sir Robert Cassels was Commander-in-Chief of the Army in India from 1935 to 1941. The young Cassels was a tall, good-looking man with a splendid physique. At Rugby, he was in the Cricket XI for four years, and in the Rugby XV for three. At Sandhurst, he won colours in cricket, rugby, hockey and racquets as well as the Sword of Honour. He was commissioned into the Seaforth Highlanders in 1926. Cassels's pre-war service was with his battalion in India, apart from two spells as ADC to his father when the latter was C-in-C Northern Command, India, and later C-in-C India.

The outbreak of war in September 1939 saw him at the regimental depot at Fort George on the Moray Firth, from where he went to the Staff College early in 1940. But he was to see a short period of active service before the fall of France. When, after the Dunkirk evacuation, it was decided to send fresh British troops to France (in what was somewhat optimistically referred to as the "2nd BEF") to help the French hold their new front along the Somme and the Aisne, Cassels went over as brigade major of 157 Infantry Brigade in the 52nd Lowland Division. But, with the situation going from bad to worse as the French front crumbled anew, the brigade was ordered to fight its way back to

Cherbourg. From there it and Cassels were lucky enough to be evacuated on June 17, 1940. They thus avoided the melancholy fate of the 51st (Highland) Division which was compelled to lay down its arms at St Valéry and passed in entirety into captivity.

Cassels was to make acquaintance with the 51st at the other end of the war when he found himself serving in, and later commanding, the division which had, in the meantime, been completely recreated in Britain. But this all seemed a long way off in 1940. For the next few years Cassels had a number of (for him humdrum) staff and other appointments until he was given command of 152 Infantry Brigade in the 51st Division for the invasion of North-West Europe.

He led it in the drive up the French coast to capture Le Havre and had the supreme satisfaction of avenging the capture of 51st Division four years before, when his brigade liberated St Valéry to the cheers of the populace. From then on he participated in the advance into The Netherlands towards the Maas during the vile autumn and winter weather of 1944. Cassels was awarded the DSO and was twice mentioned in dispatches.

After a short rest in January 1945 he was back with his brigade for what was some of the fiercest fighting of the whole campaign as the Germans — astonishingly, given that they were by now totally outnumbered and outgunned and were naked of air cover — fought to defend the Reichswald, behind their own frontier but still west of the Rhine. With German resistance eventually showing signs of having reached its limits, Cassels led his brigade across the river in March 1945. At the end of the war, at the age of only 38, he was appointed GOC of the Highland Division in Germany.



Cassels, left, receiving the US Legion of Merit from General James Van Fleet in Korea, 1952

But there was to be only a brief respite from action. In 1946 he was given command of 6th Airborne Division during the disagreeable campaign against Zionist terrorism in Palestine. Cassels was responsible for the southern sector, including Gaza and Tel Aviv. When the King David Hotel in Jerusalem was bombed in July 1946, he mounted the follow-up operation and the area search of Tel Aviv. His men just missed capturing Menachem Begin.

Cassels's next great test was the Korean War. He was leading the UK liaison staff in Australia when it broke out, and was given the task of forming the Commonwealth Division out of the British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand troops which had been sent separately to serve with the United Nations Forces, under American command. From these disparate units Cassels created a fine fighting machine and one which was unique, since there has never been another Commonwealth division. He was particularly popular with the Commonwealth troops to whom his informal manner and habit of moving freely around the foxholes and dug-

outs held by his men greatly recommended itself. Very few generals have been as close to their soldiers, and very few went further forward with them into battle. He was simply "Jim" to the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders. And the tough American 8th Army commander in Korea, General James Van Fleet, himself a footslogging type of soldier, approved: "Jim Cassels is a scrapper." Van Fleet personally pinned out Cassels's tunic the US Legion of Merit which the American Administration for the vital role the Commonwealth Division had played.

His wide battle experience brought him to the command of 1st British Corps in Germany, 1953-54, and Director General of Military Training, 1954-57, before he took over as Director of Operations in Malaya. After helping to complete the defeat of the terrorists he became the first Chief of Staff of the Federation's Armed Forces in the run-up to Malayan independence in 1959.

After a short spell as C-in-C Eastern Command, he was appointed C-in-C British Army of the Rhine and Com-

mander of Nato's Northern Army Group in 1960. Perhaps the job that he found most congenial was Adjutant General (1963-64), a post in which he could concentrate on improving the conditions of service and quality of life for the Army.

He became Chief of General Staff in 1965 at the beginning of the challenging period of military retrenchment during the first Wilson Government. He had little difficulty defending the Regular Army's order of battle in Denis Healey's Defence Reviews because no one could deny that the Army was grossly over-stretched, but with the Navy losing its fleet aircraft carriers and the Royal Air Force suffering cancellation of the hoped-for revolutionary TSR2 supersonic strike aircraft, he had to accept the less damaging axing of the old Territorial Army and its replacement with the leaner T & AVR (the TA title has since been restored).

The withdrawal from South-East Asia, which flowed from the Defence Reviews, presented fewer difficulties because the Borneo campaign was well on the way to being won. But the terrorist campaign in Aden tested his operational judgment to the full, and his advice on the handling of Rhodesian UDI was crucial in avoiding British military action to end Ian Smith's rebellion.

He retired from the Army in 1968, in which year he was promoted field marshal, and indulged his favourite pastimes of fly fishing and shooting in Scotland, latterly moving to Suffolk.

In 1933 he married Joyce, daughter of Brigadier-General Henry Kirk of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. When she died in 1978, he married Joy (Mrs Kenneth Dickson). He is survived by her and by the son of his first marriage.

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PLACE A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IN THE TIMES
On Monday, December 23rd, The Times will be publishing their Christmas Messages Column.
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THE LATE MR KRUGER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PRETORIA, Dec 18

To-day the Boers in the Transvaal are rendering their last homage to the old President whose body has been laid to rest in his wife's grave in the presence of a great concourse of those he proudly called "his people." So recently has the British Empire mourned a Sovereign to whom the same words "my people" were also no meaningless expression that it was interesting to watch the spirit in which our new fellow-subjects stood by the graveside of the man whose striking personality so long dominated the history of the Transvaal. Mr. Kruger's funeral collected a large crowd in the capital and today's ceremony was a fitting tribute to a great man, but it would be idle to look for an expression of deep national sorrow such as that evoked at the death of Queen Victoria.

The first portion of the funeral service was held this morning in the open air before the Dropper church in front of what was the late President's residence. Many thousands were present, hundreds of whom came from distant parts for the occasion and were housed in tents or under wagons in every portion of the town, but there was little of that subdued feeling which one might have expected. As the

ON THIS DAY

December 17, 1904

Paul Kruger (1825-1904), the great Boer leader, was President of the Transvaal, during the bitter quarrels with the British that led ultimately to the South African War.

people chanted together in groups anecdotes were exchanged and laughter flowed easily. When once the service began, however, the scene changed and a spirit of religious devotion seized the whole assembly, which listened attentively to the orations of representatives of the three sections of the Dutch Church. The tenor of the speeches, with one exception, called for no comment. Only Mr. Bosman, Moderator of the Dutch Reformed Church, overstepped the bounds of good taste.

His language, however, was carefully chosen, and it was only the interpretation that he obviously wished his audience to put upon

his words to which exception could be taken. Taking Psalm 137 as his text, he likened the Boer nation to the people of Israel in captivity and pointed out that, because Israel trusted in the Almighty, they were ultimately delivered, even though their leaders were dead. So the Boer nation need not lose heart and faith in God if such leaders as Kruger and Joubert were dead and gone. They were now under the British flag. It was the proud boast that the flag was the symbol of liberty and equal rights. Under that flag the small island of Malaya enjoyed more liberty than the Boers, but they would hope to keep their language and have the same liberty as Malaya.

In the afternoon addresses were delivered by Mr. Schalk Burger, General de Wet, and General Botha from a platform erected in Church-square, facing the Government buildings. Here a far greater concourse of people was present than at the religious service. Each orator eulogized the late President for his whole-hearted service rendered to the country, and urged the audience to continue the work begun by Mr. Kruger with the aim of consolidation and development of the Boer nation. Independence, said Mr. Burger, was lost, but not nationality. They must regard the occasion that brought them together as an occasion for hope, not disappointment...

Fowler's four goals send South Croydon wild



UNSURPRISINGLY, the winner of the £50 weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game had Robbie Fowler in his team. Mr P. Mills, of South Croydon, scored 45 points over the week, with Fowler accounting for a third of them.

The long reign of John Hunt as the leading selector in the overall competition is, for the moment at least, over. Mr G. Foster, with his team Sophie And Sam, a Sky entrant, has edged four points clear of Mr Hunt, after being in second place for some weeks.

Mr Mills's team is:

Goalkeeper
P Evans (Leeds)

Full backs
S I Bjornebye (Liverpool)
C Perry (Wimbledon)

Central defenders
S Campbell (Tottenham)
F Leboeuf (Chelsea)

Midfield players
R Earle (Wimbledon)
P McGinlay (Hibernian)
A Smith (Dundee)
D Windass (Aberdeen)

Strikers
R Fowler (Liverpool)
A McCoist (Rangers)

Manager
R Aitken (Aberdeen)

If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve



Fowler shoots for his first goal against Middlesbrough. His four goals meant that his ITF total increased by 15 points



allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or the Scottish League Premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0991 886 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 900 290 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

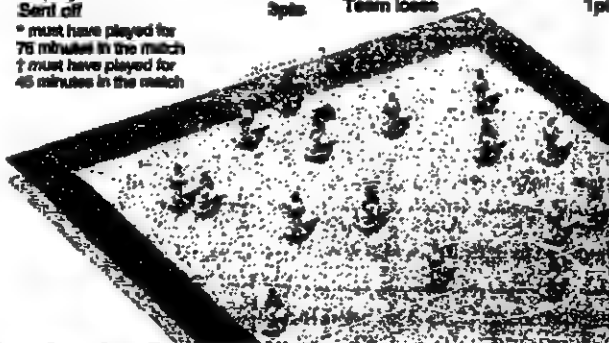
HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, the Scottish League Premier division and the Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
Goalkeeper	Saves penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
Goalkeeper	Saves goal	3pts
Midfield player	Keeps clean sheet*	1pt
Goalkeeper	Saves goal	3pts
Striker	Saves goal	3pts
Manager	Team wins	3pts
Manager	Team draws	1pt

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Concedes goal	1pt
Goalkeeper	Concedes own goal	1pt
Manager	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
* must have played for 45 minutes in the match



EXCLUSIVE ITF COMPETITION THE TIMES

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Manager games.

The FA Premier

League edition of Subbuteo includes

two teams, Mitre balls, referee and

linesmen, green strips, line flags, goals,

scoreboard, pitch cloth and a miniature

silver and gold replica trophy.

The Manager, created by former

England soccer coach Terry Venables, is

a football business game which casts

players as managers of Premiership

football clubs. This is a fun boardgame

for two to six players with questions on

entertainment, general knowledge and

sport suitable for all the family.

HOW TO ENTER

To enter (only players of *The Times*

ITF game) send your name, your ITF

team name, ITF pin number and the

answer to the question below, on a

postcard or the back of a sealed

envelope to: *The Times*/Waddington

Comp, 16 Whitefriars St, London EC8

2NG. Closing date: Friday, January 31,

1997. Winners will be drawn at

random. Normal TNL rules apply.

Of which country is Terry Venables

now the coach?

CHANGING TIMES

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0991 886 968

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 900 290 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your five-digit selectors PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player's name	Player's code
Club	Club
Player in	Player out
Club	Club

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN	OUT
21604... Gunner Halls	Leeds United
31702... John Smith	Tottenham Hotspur
21704... Phil Charnock	Liverpool
42601... Paolo Fure	West Ham United

LOANED PLAYERS
T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, two weeks); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, three weeks); R Fordham (West Ham to Southampton, three weeks); G Peacock (Chelsea to Queens Park Rangers, one week); M Stein (Chelsea to Stoke, one week); D Kennedy (Tottenham to Reading, one week); I Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, two weeks); P Tisdale (Southampton to Huddersfield, two weeks); I Skelly (Aston Villa to Southend, three weeks); P Simpson (Derby to Sheffield United, three weeks); M Jackson (Barnsley to Birmingham, three weeks); M Bryer (Sheff Wed to Millwall, four weeks). Loan periods subject to fluctuation.

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	343
2	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	339
3	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	334
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	327
5	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	327
6	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	321
7	Inter The Strand	(M Ward)	317
8	Brain's Team	(S Howes)	316
9	John Hunt Taunton E	(J Hunt)	315
10	Gangsters	(A Lane)	314
11	Deggars	(V Cog)	314
12	Tuff's Team	(D Tully)	311
13	Nobby's Ark	(G P Dolan)	311
14	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	311
15	Purple Rain	(S Gohil)	308
16	James Boys Three	(M Jones)	308
17	John Hunt Taunton G	(J Hunt)	308
18	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	305
19	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	305
20	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohil)	304
21	NST Monks	(J Stasiewicz)	304
22	Skyforest	(A Burton)	304
23	Hill Red Devils	(G Foster)	303
24	Ricky's Roovers	(A Riggs)	302
25	Team A	(A Lane)	298
26	Storm	(P Mills)	297
27	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohil)	297
28	Schools For Goals	(K Booth)	297
29	James Boys Eight	(M Jones)	296
30	James Boys One	(M Jones)	296
31	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	294
32	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohil)	294
33	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	294
34	Nobby 29	(J Brown)	294
35	Subsided Utd 5	(M Larcum)	293
36	Nonchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	292
37	Born's Boys XI	(P Bown)	292
38	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	292
39	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	292
40	Inter The Wallat	(M Ward)	291
41	Crooky Boys	(R Crook)	291
42	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	291
43	Nobby	(J Brown)	291
44	Team C	(A Lane)	290
45	Reactor Colter	(G McGovern)	290
46	Xpact Millies	(M Jackson)	290
47	Mars FC	(M Baber)	290
48	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	290
49	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swales)	289
50	Le Bees	(J Robbuck)	289
51	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	289
52	A2	(K Farhall)	289
53	Mark's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	289
54	Brinsford United	(G Weiss)	289
55	ABC	(M Baber)	289
56	Scars	(S Wells)	287
57	Garforth Seashores	(J Doughty)	287
58	Layton's Lions 7	(R Layton)	286
59	Bad Time Boys	(R Crook)	286
60	Orville Classics	(J Bradshaw)	286
61	12 Angry Men	(D Cook)	286
62	Nomads	(N Brown)	285
63	Bonny Boys	(R Crook)	285
64	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swales)	285
65	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	285
66	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	285
67	Sky Rockets	(K Farhall)	285
68	AB 4	(A Boyland)	285
69	Pin Ups Two	(P Tuley)	284
70	China Castle	(G Gohil)	284

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF checkline on 0991 886 643

Outside UK: 44 900 100 943

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your five-digit selectors PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
60	Jason's Boys Four	(J Gerring)	284
61	Nobby J	(J Brown)	284
62	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	283
63	Clover Vale	(N Emington)	283
64	Clarendon Loyal	(S Ford)	282
65	Inter The Bn	(M Ward)	282
66	Where's Ray Gohil?	(P Fromm)	282
67	1st Left	(K J Burns)	282
68	Kingabury Tr 1	(D King)	282
69	Flying Fortresses	(D Thomas)	281
70	Totled Two	(E Kirby)	281
71	Northwood XI	(S Muller)	281
72	Inter The Unknown	(P Barnett)	280
73	FJB Roovers	(P J Butler)	279
74	Aldecrude Villa	(M Jackson)	279
75	Joking	(P Farley)	279
76	Kryssons 2	(S Roberts)	279
77	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohil)	279
78	The Derstars	(C C Veness)	279
79	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	277
80	Red Star Storm	(P Mills)	277
81	Beyond Fault	(P Foster)	277
82	Redcap's Roovers	(S Emson)	277
83	Geatall	(R Howe)	277
84	Def Con 3	(M Peck)	277
85	Stiffie	(J Longstaff)	277
86	Formey City	(P Fowkes)	276
87	Fordey's Seconds	(C Forde)	276
88	Nobby 24	(J Brown)	276
89	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	274
90	Airbit	(J Flyte)	274
91	Uni Boys Utd 1	(G Gardiner)	274
92	Concrete Bastards	(S Mingle)	274
93	Fortune Hunters	(K Farhall)	274
94	John Hunt Taunton B	(J Hunt)	274
95	The Great Date	(K Booth)	274
96	FC Parits	(J Mulcock)	274
97	Soccer Superstars	(J McCallion)	274
98	Hairy May	(N Pearson)	274
99	ABC	(M Baber)	274
100	Rother Roadies	(M Eveshead)	273

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Triple Top Tan	(P Bailey)	273
112	Mummy's Mate	(D Anderson)	273
113	T 35	(T Bazzani)	273
114	Inter The Net	(M Ward)	273
115	1970 Jr FC	(J Rowe)	273
116	1970 Jr FC	(P A Arrows)	272
117	T 20	(T Bazzani)	272
118	Shane Moles	(H Brookes)	272
119	Pacific All Star	(T Leonard)	272
120	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	272
121	James Boys Sky	(M Jones)	272
122	London United	(E Coates)	272
123	Grubbs's Gringos	(S F Pacey)	271
124	Caroline 6	(A Luckhurst)	271
125	Aldo Is Great	(J Holdley)	271
126	Midland Magic	(J Pregon)	271
127	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	271
128	Wayward XI	(D McLean)	271
129	The Toppers	(J Brown)	271
130	Tagua's 1st XI	(K Tagua)	270
131	4.4.2	(K Brown)	270
132	Camson's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	270
133	Trouble Shooters	(R Phil)	270
134	Jack's Nightmares	(N J Lane)	270
135	Blue Bird	(D A Sutton)	270
136	Ebbey's 1st XI	(S Baldick)	270
137	Thorn Footy FC	(M Hosen)	270
138	Alford's Rovers	(D Ritchie)	270
139	Langley Lads	(N Finch)	270
140	Turner's Excess 5	(P Turner)	270
141	Law's Legends	(L Michael)	270
142	Spices 024	(J Duddy)	269
143	DJS 5	(D Serton)	269
144	The Big Man	(K Booth)	269
145	Perry's Progress	(M Parich)	269
146	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	269
147	Harl Karl XI	(H Kerr)	269
148	Perry's 5	(S Bear)	269
149	Paul's People 2	(P Gregor)	269
150	Ball Washers	(J Murray)	269

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Points	Value
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3	
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	+4	+2	
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0	+27	
10202	V Berriman	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Boscovich	Aston Villa	0.75	0	-14	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+1	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+19	
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-19	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	2.00	0	-1	
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.50	0	0	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-20	
10603	F Groves	Chelsea	3.00	-5	-5	
10701	S Ogilvie	Coventry City	1.50	0	-19	
10702	J Fitt	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
10802	R Houtt	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0	0	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	-10	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	-6	-30	
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-9	
11101	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	-1	
11201	G Rousset	Hartlepool	1.50	0	-28	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-4	-7	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	+5	+20	
11501	M Beaney	Leeds United	1.50	0	0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11601	M Merlyn	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+8	
11602	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0	0	
11603	K Koller	Leeds United	1.00	0	0	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	-1	-11	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0	-18	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	+5	
11901	M Whelan	Middlesbrough	1.50	-8	-14	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-19	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-19	
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3	
12102	P Smolac	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+5	
12201	M Croxley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5	+23	
12202	A Fothergill	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12301	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0	
12302	S Thompson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	0	
12401	A Gorman	Rangers	5.00	-2	-17	
12501	K Prasanna	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	+5	
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
12601	D Beaman	Southampton	1.00	0	-16	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	0	
12701	C Woods	Sunderland	1.50	0	-19	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	+5	+5	
12801	A Colton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+8	
12802	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	+18	
12901	E Baundson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
12902	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.00	0	-16	
13001	S Manton	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5	
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	+5	+12	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Points	Value
20101	S McKinnell	Aberdeen	2.00	+4	+11	
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+20	
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+17	
20301	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+4	
20302	S Stannett	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+24	
20401	A Walsh	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+28	
20402	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0	
20501	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0	
20502	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+24	
20601	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-3	
20602	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+1	
20701	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-4	
20702	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2	
20801	T McKinnell	Celtic	3.00	0	-2	
20802	D Petruscu	Chelsea	3.00	0	+5	
20901	S Clarke	Chelsea	2.00	-3	-2	
20902	T Phelan	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
21001	S Minto	Chelsea	1.00	-2	-1	
21002	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-7	
21101	B Barnes	Coventry City	1.00	0	-5	
21102	M Hall	Coventry City	1.00	0	+4	
21201	R Genuis	Coventry City	1.50	0	-2	
21202	C Powell	Derby County	1.50	0	+3	
21301	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0	+2	
21302	P Parker	Derby County	1.00	0	+4	
21401	M Milnes	Dundee United	1.00	+3	+15	
21402	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-8	
21501	C Miller	Dundee United	0.50	0	-7	
21601	A Tod	Dunfermline	0.25	-2	-8	
21602	M Hottel	Dunfermline	2.50	0	0	
21701	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0	+9	
21702	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0	+8	
21801	M Jackson	Everton	2.00	0	0	
21802	G Locke	Hartlepool	1.50	0	0	
21901	N Poulton	Hartlepool	1.00	-2	-2	
21902	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	-4	-2	
22001	S Dow	Hibernian	1.00	-1	-12	
22002	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	+4	+10	
22101	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+4	+17	
22102	A Dorog	Leeds United	0.50	+3	+11	
22201	P Beasley	Leeds United	0.50	0	+6	
22202	M Williams	Leeds United	0.50	0	+8	
22301	S Grayson	Leicester City	0.50	0	-2	
22302	N Lewis	Leicester City	0.50	0	-2	
22401	F Roling	Leicester City	0.25	0	0	
22402	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
22501	S Harrison	Liverpool	1.50	0	-1	
22502	S1 Bjornby	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
22601	D Charnock	Liverpool	0.25	0	0	
22602	D Innes	Manchester United	4.00	0	+12	
22701	G Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	+9	
22702	P Neville	Manchester United	3.00	0	-2	
22801	N Cox	Middlesbrough	2.50	-4	-11	
22802	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-5	
22901	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	0	
22902	S Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.25	0	0	
23001	S McKinnell	Motherwell	0.50	+4	+5	
23002	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	-1	
23101	S Watson	Newcastle United	3.00	+4	+14	
23102	R Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+3	
23201	J Berrisford	Newcastle United	2.50	0	-7	
23202	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+3	+2	
23301	N Lytle	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+4	+4	
23302	A1 Hasland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	+4	+4	
23401	N Jerkin	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+1	
23402	P Bonar	Raith Rovers	0.75	0	-5	
23501	D Kirkwood	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-5	
23502	D Robertson	Rangers	2.00	0	0	
23601	J Brown	Rangers	1.50	0	+12	
23602	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+18	
23701	P Atkinson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	0	
23702	S Nicol	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+5	
23801	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
23802	L Bryce	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	0	
23901	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	0	-5	
23902	F Benali	Southampton	0.75	0	0	
24001	S Churton	Southampton	0.50	+4	+13	
24002	D Kubold	Sunderland	0.50	0	+4	
24101	M Scott	Sunderland	0.25	+4	+3	
24102	G Hall	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0	
24201	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+4	+23	
24202	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+12	
24301	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
24302	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0	
24401	S Carr	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	+12	
24402	J Dicks	West Ham United	1.00	0	+4	
24501	T Breacher	West Ham United	1.00	0	+3	
24502	K Rowland	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2	
24601	M Bowen	West Ham United	0.50	0	0	
24602	K Brown	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+9	
24701	B Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+8	
24702	A Kibbe	Wimbledon	0.75	+4	+18	
24801	C Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
24802	D Jaup	Wimbledon	0.25	+4	+21	
24901	C Perry	Wimbledon	0.25	+4	+21	

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Points	Value
30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3	
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	4.00	0	-16	
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	3.00	0	+19	
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+20	
30301	M Keown	Arsenal	1.00	0	+9	
30302	A Unghian	Arsenal	1.00	0	+9	



Kelly, the Sunderland No 16, performs acrobatics during the match against Chelsea. But it will not boost his ITF rating

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Age	Points	Value
30303	S Marshall	Arsenal	1.00	0	0	
30304	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+16	
30305	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00	0	+33	
30306	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+9	
30307	R Schmechel	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+13	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+1	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0	
30404	N Markov	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+10	
30502	M McKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+2	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	0	
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	0	+1	
30601	M Dugher	Chelsea	2.50	-3	-8	
30602	F Lehoucq	Chelsea	2.50	+13	+13	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	-2	-2	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	+3	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+5	
30701	E Johnson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+19	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-1	
30801	I Stinuac	Derby County	2.50	0	-4	
30802	D Westall	Derby County	1.00	0	0	
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+1	
30804	J Lawrence	Derby County	1.00	0	+8	
30805	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0	-1	
30901	S Freeman	Dunfermline	3.00	0	+28	
30902	I Den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	-1	-1	
31001	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	-10	
31002	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+2	
31003	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+9	
31004	D McPherson	Hartlepool	1.00	0	+8	
31005	P Ritchie	Hartlepool	1.00	0	+15	
31101	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4	
31102	B Walsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+7	
31103	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	-1	-7	
31104	M Rolly	Kilmarnock	1.00	-4	-2	
31105	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	-4	-1	
31106	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	+15	
31107	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2	
31108	L Lewis	Leeds United	1.00	0	+12	
31109	J Pennington	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31110	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+6	
31111	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+9	
31112	P Karmark	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
31113	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+7	
31114	P Balby	Liverpool	3.50	0	+18	
31115	J Scars	Liverpool	3.50	0	+15	
31116	M Wright	Liverpool	3.00	0	+11	
31117	N Ruddock	Liverpool	1.00	0	+14	
31118	D Maitland	Liverpool	1.50	0	+1	
31119	G Palfister	Manchester United	3.50	0	+1	
31120	D May	Manchester United	3.00	0	+10	
31121	R Johnson	Manchester United	3.00	0	+10	
31122	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
31123	D Wetherall	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-7	
31124	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-4	-13	
31125	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	-4	-4	

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

FT-SE blow to Halifax shareholders

By Gavin Lumsden

MILLIONS of Halifax Building Society members could see the value of their new shares drop after conversion next June if a proposal to delay its entry into the Stock Exchange goes ahead.

With an estimated market value of £10 billion, the Halifax is equivalent to more than 1 per cent of market value of the FT-SE 100 index and would normally qualify for fast entry into the index.

Fast entry was devised by a committee of actuaries in the 1980s to get the large private

sector stocks such as British Telecom and British Gas included in the main stock market indices as quickly as possible after flotation.

However, unlike the privatisations the Halifax conversion will offer shares only to its 9 million members. No shares are to be placed with the big institutional investors.

The FT-SE Actuaries UK Indices Committee, which reviews the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE All-Share indices, believes the lack of an institutional placing could distort the market and is considering a delay of up to three weeks before the Halifax joins the FT-SE 100.

Steven Vale, secretary to the FT-SE Actuaries Committee, said: "There will be no distribution to institutions."

"If we put it in on the first day institutions would not be able to get their hands on the stock which will cause a distortion in the market if the stock gets an artificially high price."

"The whole point of the indices are that they are supposed to be a realistic measurement of how fund managers perform."

Peter Butler of the pension fund manager Hermes said institutions would need time to build up their usual 60 per cent combined stake in stocks.

However, City analysts fear this could mean tracker funds, which automatically buy shares in all FT-SE 100 constituents, would avoid Halifax in the early days of its float, thereby artificially depressing its price. This in turn would mean a lower price for those small shareholders selling out in the early days of the flotation. Many small shareholders will be tempted to

cash in immediately on the windfall profits from floating off the building society on the stock market.

Up to 900,000 Halifax savers are expected to sell their shares in the first week. The exclusion of the trackers, which buy 15 per cent of the market, it is feared could worsen any decline in price for private investors.

Some analysts think the FT-SE Actuaries has exaggerated its case as the early sellers should provide two-thirds of institutional needs almost immediately.

When the Abbey National floated in July 1989 its share price tumbled 5p from 153p in its first days of trading. It is now over £7.

One City analyst said: "Many institutions would prefer for it to be delayed although private investors could be disadvantaged in the early days."

However, the Halifax took a relaxed view saying institutional investors would slowly build up their stakes as the company's entry into the indices was inevitable.

A spokesman said: "It is a technical issue to do with managing a unique issue."

The Abbey National did not see how unfulfilled institutional demand could be a problem.

Stephen Tanner, of the Institutional Fund Managers Association, said: "It seems an odd idea. We all know it is going into the index; it's all a matter of when. In practice the share price should benefit before it goes into the index."

Mr Vale said the committee would welcome comments from Halifax members.

Pennington, page 23



Lord Saatchi, left, and Peter Wilson, chairman of Gallahers, yesterday, after the tobacco group handed over the management of sponsorship by its Benson & Hedges brand to M&C Saatchi, the advertising agency founded less than two years ago by Lord Saatchi and his brother Charles. B&H recently pledged to spend £10 million a year on the Jordan Formula One racing team, currently trying to sign Nigel Mansell, former Formula One champion, on a £7 million deal. M&C is setting up a sponsorship side that will concentrate on sports, broadcasting and the arts. Other clients it hopes to win include Gallahers' Silk Cut.

Bass in £400m Holiday Inns deal

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

BASS, the brewing and leisure group, is selling 47 of its Holiday Inn hotels in America to Bristol Hotels Group of the US. The £400 million deal is part Bass's strategy to franchise hotels rather than own them outright.

In return, Bass will take a shareholding of 36.1 per cent in Bristol, which will become the largest hotel operator in America. Bass is also selling management contracts for another 14 hotels to Bristol and will receive \$91 million in cash and will retire \$300 million in debt.

The deal will more than double the size of the American company, which will become the largest Holiday Inns franchisee in the world. It will control 84 of the hotels, including Holiday Inn Select and Crowne Plaza hotels.

A Bass spokesman said: "Bristol has a strong management team and they already franchise from us, so we decided to stay with them."

American hotels contributed 500 million to the company's operating profits in the year to September. However, the figure also includes hotels managed but not owned by Bass. It is not clear how much the company's own hotels contributed.

Bass is planning to invest \$100 million in its Holiday Inn network in Europe, Asia or Africa. Its progress in developing the chain in those areas has been slower than in the US, where it has more than 1,600 hotels under franchise. It continues to own 20 hotels in America and has no immediate plans to sell them.

Bass said: "We have always seen franchising as our primary business. Owning and managing hotels is simply a means of supporting that operation."

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BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	3993.8 (+21.4)
Yield	3.59%
FTSE All share	1955.20 (+8.03)
Nickel	20422.04 (+80.65)
New York	
Dow Jones	6337.55 (+32.68)
S&P Composite	729.92 (+1.28)
US BATH	
Federal Funds	5 1/4% (5 1/4%)
Long Bond	98 1/2% (99 1/4%)
Yield	6.60% (6.57%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth Interbank	6 1/4% (6 1/4%)
Life long gilt	108 1/4% (108 1/4%)
STERLING	
New York	1.6627* (1.6582)
London	
DM	1.8819 (1.8881)
FF	2.3816 (2.3829)
FF	8.7122 (8.6581)
Sfr	2.0253 (2.0245)
Yen	169.33 (168.70)
£ index	93.7 (93.1)
US \$ DOLLAR	
London	
DM	1.8830* (1.8843)
FF	2.3811* (2.3825)
Sfr	1.3277* (1.3245)
Yen	114.18* (113.58)
£ index	98.4 (98.1)
Tokyo close Yen 113.83	
RECENTLY ISSUED	
Event 15-day (Feb)	\$28.85 (\$28.90)
GOLDS	
London close	\$367.56 (\$368.65)
* denotes midday trading price	

Better recipe

New-look stores and a recovery in consumer confidence combined to propel profits at MFI, Britain's largest kitchen and bedroom furniture group, 63 per cent higher in the first half.

Page 23, Tempos 24

Blue skies

The \$13.3 billion takeover of McDonnell Douglas by Boeing, the world's largest aircraft manufacturer, is almost certain to receive American Government approval as early as this summer.

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House prices tipped to rise 10%

By Sara McConnell and Rachel Kelly

HOUSE prices are set to rise 10 per cent next year and a further 10 per cent in 1998, UBS, the banking group, predicts. This would push price gains into double figures for the first time since 1989.

Publishing his latest housing market report, Rob Thomas, UBS housing analyst, declared: "The gloom of the 1990s housing recession has finally been shaken off."

Rising prices will release more people from the negative equity trap, which will in turn bring more homes into the market, Mr Thomas said. UBS estimates that the number of people with mortgages worth more than the value of their homes will fall from 500,000 at the end of 1996 to 90,000 by the end of 1997.

Mr Thomas predicts that turnover of properties will rise to 1.4 million in 1997 and 1.6 million in 1998. He played down fears that a housing recovery could escalate into a 1980s-style speculative boom. "With housing seriously undervalued by any historical comparison the market's new-found confidence will fuel a rapid catching up period. There is a danger that this... will rekindle speculative buying... but in the absence of a seriously overheating economy we give this scenario a low probability."

He believes mortgage rate rises will be small, peaking at an annual average of 5.3 per cent in 1998.

The Cheltenham & Gloucester, the fourth largest mortgage lender, has raised its standard variable rate from 6.85 per cent to 6.94 per cent, with effect from January 1.

RBS executive nets £2m bonus

By Gavin Lumsden

LAWRENCE FISH, the chairman of Royal Bank of Scotland's US subsidiary, Citizens Financial Group, has netted £2 million in bonuses since its merger with First NH Bank in April.

According to RBS's annual report, published yesterday, the payment to Mr Fish doubled the amount paid in bonuses to eight executive directors to £2.4 million in 1996.

In addition to a £442,000 basic salary, Mr Fish, 52, was paid £100,000 in benefits, bringing his total package to £2.57 million. This was more than £1 million in excess of last year's payments, when Mr Fish, on £1.54 million, was also the highest-paid executive in RBS.

RBS headhunted Mr Fish to run Citizens three years ago. His remuneration dwarfs that of Lord Younger of Prestwick,

chairman of RBS, who received £225,000 this year. George Mathewson, chief executive, received a £121,000 bonus, lifting his total remuneration to £557,000, from £485,000 in the previous year.

RBS said that Mr Fish's remuneration was in line with comparable executives in America and was well deserved because Citizens' profits, after provisions, had risen by 57 per cent, to £168 million, this year after the merger deal with First NH Bank.

In the year to September 30, RBS increased pre-tax profits to £695 million, from £502 million. There was a net exceptional profit of £51 million, made up of a £72 million profit on a German disposal, partly offset by restructuring costs of £21 million relating to the merger of Citizens and First NH Bank.

Tabor leads coup at West Ham

By Jason Nisssé

A FORMER bookmaker and racehorse owner, who had a lifetime ban from the Jockey Club overturned on appeal in 1973, will today launch an attempt to oust the chairman of West Ham United and take control of the troubled Premiership football club.

Representatives of Michael Tabor, who sold his Arthur Prince bookmaking business to Coral for £30 million last year and now lives in tax exile in Monaco, will stand up at today's annual meeting of the club and propose that shareholders reject the re-election of Terence Brown, the club's chairman. They will propose that Henry Montlake, an Essex lawyer representing Mr Tabor, is elected instead.

Although even Mr Tabor's camp admit this move has little chance of success as Mr Brown claims backing from holders of

90 per cent of West Ham's shares. It is a first attempt by him to take control of West Ham, whose unquoted shares have a market value of about £25 million.

Mr Montlake has written to shareholders saying that Mr Tabor, a lifelong West Ham fan, is willing to put money for rebuilding the club's ground at Upton Park and buying new players.

The letter says Mr Tabor has funds available immediately. In the past he has shown no shortage of wealth, being a leading racehorse owner, boasting Thunder Gulch, the 1995 Kentucky Derby winner and the most expensive yearling in Britain at 890,000 guineas in his stable.

A lifetime ban imposed on him in 1970 by the Jockey Club for allegedly fixing races was overturned three years later.

Power failure halts Lloyds cashpoints

By Caroline Merrell



THOUSANDS of Lloyds TSB Bank customers had their Christmas shopping plans thwarted yesterday by a massive computer failure that meant that all its 2,400 cashpoint machines were out of action for several hours.

The problem was caused by power failure at the bank's central computer in Peterborough. The chaos follows an initiative by the banks to try to integrate the various cash machine networks.

Customers were not only unable to get cash, but were also unable to get information about balances in their accounts. The bank said that it had deployed all

possible resources on trying to sort out the problem, but, by early evening, it had still not managed to get the computer working.

Ironically, the problem affected only the seven million customers with Lloyds. The seven million former TSB customers who became Lloyds customers when TSB was taken over last year were able to use their cash cards. The failure of the system, which is on the Four Banks computer network, is bound to annoy many shoppers in a year in which record levels of spending are forecast.

Link, the biggest cash machine network in the UK, experienced

record cash withdrawals in the first week of December. It claims that withdrawals are up by 30 per cent on last year, with an extra £50 million withdrawn in the first week of December. John Hardy, Link chief executive, said: "We have seen a dramatic increase in both cash withdrawals and transactions. It looks as if people are feeling the Christmas spirit earlier than they did last year."

Britain's retailers expect this Christmas to be a bumper one for spending. A recent survey forecast spending of £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink — £700 million up on last year.

Plans are afoot to integrate cashpoint networks

Offshore
Private Banking

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Management

International
Tax Planning

Trust and
Company
Formation and
Management

confidential **secure**

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Black sells his 25% John Fairfax stake

CONRAD BLACK, the newspaper proprietor, abandoned his long-held ambition to take over John Fairfax, the Australian newspaper group, yesterday with the sale of his entire 25 per cent stake in the group to Brierley Investments for A\$553.8 million (about £276.9 million). The disposal comes just weeks after Mr Black gave warning that he would sell out if the Australian Government refused to let him

entire 25 per cent stake in the group is valued at A\$553.8 million (about £276.9 million). The disposal comes just weeks after Mr Black gave warning that he would sell out if the Australian Government refused to let him increase his stake in the group, and as the Government prepares to report on its inquiry into the current media ownership rules.

20 per cent of Fairfax ordinary shares and 18 per cent of its debentures from Mr Black's Hollinger International for A\$447.1 million, representing an average cost per share of A\$2.82. If approval from Fairfax shareholders is obtained it will then acquire the remaining 5 per cent of the shares at a cost of A\$106.7 million. **Media gem loses lustre, page 25**

Pensions providers

MORE than six out of ten private sector employees in Britain are members of some form of pension scheme that their employer had arranged or contributes to, according to a new Department of Social Security study. The survey found that just over half (55 per cent) of organisations made some form of pension provision for at least some of their employees.

Winchester loss deepens

Winchester loss deepens

LOSSES at Winchester Multimedia Group increased to £533,000 before tax from £184,000 in the half-year to September 30. The results were affected by the decision to write down the value of its interest in *Rainbow*, the feature film, by £458,000. The financing of another four films is under negotiation, which would take the catalogue to nine, with total budgets of about £18 million. Losses were 4.8p a

MEGGIT, the defence electronics company, has won two orders worth more than £10 million. The Ministry of Defence

Prior pays same again

PRIOR, the property company, is maintaining the interim dividend at 2p after reporting pre-tax profits of £338,000 (£367,000) for the six months to September 30. Earnings were 3.57p a share (4.86p). The company has undergone management changes and a change of strategy, withdrawing from joint ventures and disposing of its retail property in Portsmouth. The company said the value of commercial property was beginning to improve in some areas.

Mr Men go to America

THE Mr Men characters are to make their American TV debut

next year in a deal that may be worth more than £1 million to Copyright Promotions, the character licensing agent. Copyright, which has exclusive worldwide licensing and marketing rights to Mr Men, said that Summit Media, a US program-

CREST PACKAGING, the cartons and flexible packaging company, is holding the interim dividend at 1.375p despite reporting an increase in pre-tax profits to £2.2 million, from £1.4 million, in the 26 weeks to October 26. Turnover rose to £24.7 million, from £22.7 million. Ian Tegner, chairman, said that competitive pressures continued to affect both divisions but order levels were high and capacity was in place to meet demand. Earnings improved to 4p a share, from 2.7p.

0171-782 7344

can be seen at The Stroke Association, China House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JH or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to: St. Alban's House, 57-64, Rayner Street, London SW1Y 4QS quoting the above reference number. Comments or representation can be made within one month of the date.

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□ Saunders awaits Euro ruling □ Mathematics behind insurance mergers □ Defeat for Myerson and Tregor

Pleading in deadly Ernest

THE judgment that the European Court of Human Rights is threatening to hand down today is a bad one through and through, and far more damaging than any petty row over a smacked 12-year-old. The court is contemplating the restoration of Ernest Saunders's reputation.

Since his 1990 conviction for theft and other offences, Mr Saunders has stage-managed a rehabilitation of that reputation even more miraculously, in its own way, than the sudden lifting of the mental problems that once plagued him. It is the culmination of an extraordinary, often single-handed, public relations campaign.

Outside the City, he is now seen as a lone banner against injustice, the little man against the system. This is a view that might surprise those who knew the man in his heyday. "Deadly Ernest" the put-upon victim? The man who conspired with a few chums to steal millions now a political prisoner?

Part of the problem is that the Guinness fraud, to the uninitiated, looks like the perfect victimless crime, one bunch of rich plutocrats outdoing another bunch, a few figures manipulated on a screen and no one worse off. This is quite untrue. By artificially raising the Guinness share price, they bought Distillers on the cheap,

so depriving any investor in the latter of some of the value of the holding. As Distillers was one of the most widely held stocks at the time, this means virtually anyone with a pension lost out, if only marginally. It is a classic example of how to make a packet by robbing large numbers of people of extremely small amounts of money. No wonder the backhanders paid to that little cartel totalled £25 million.

Mr Saunders's appeal to the court will be decided today. He claims the questioning he underwent by Department of Trade and Industry inspectors amounted to forced self-incrimination, contrary to the established legal principle of a right to silence. The inspectors, under the 1985 Companies Act, can request answers to their questions on pain of up to two years' imprisonment. This evidence can then be used by the prosecution.

There is one plain reason why Mr Saunders's case should fail. We expect a higher standard of behaviour from those whom we charge to look after our money, a fact implicit in all the regulatory

paraphernalia of finance. Directors should be no different from other investment advisers, no matter in whose interests they are charged to act.

Consider these questions. In the battle between the fraudster and the prosecuting authorities, which side is, on the available criminal case history, operating at a disadvantage? And are the laws and regulations as they stand, post-Maxwell, post-BCCI, post all the other scandals, strong enough to protect all investors? And do they need weakening further at the behest of a European court, and on behalf of Ernest Saunders?

Brokering the perfect deal

HOWEVER good the deal may look on paper, the real trick in merging two insurance companies is persuading the staff to work with each other. Insurers are people businesses, and their cultures are often strikingly different. This is why, in spite of talk of consolidation, brokers have been cautious in seeking



out potential partners. Put together two multimillion people businesses and see half the staff walk out, and you are back where you started, only poorer. Yet the consolidation is driven by the same mathematics that brought about the more high-profile links between Royal and Sun Alliance and Refuge and United Friendly — and the flirting between Commercial Union and BAT. Insurance brokers, like their brethren further up the food chain, are having to cope with falling margins and slow revenue growth. North America and the UK are horribly competitive and there is no sign of a recovery. Many brokers have the additional cost of contribut-

ing towards the Lloyd's of London reconstruction plan.

People companies have high running expenses, which is why mergers look so tempting: computer systems harmonised, offices sold — and mass sackings all round, and Merry Christmas to the lot of you. Worldwide, the sector is already consolidating; only last week the merger between two US insurers, Aon Corporation and Alexander and Alexander Services, created the world's largest broker. Further deals are expected, with Marsh & McLennan of the US thought to be about to buy Miner.

This puts pressure on smaller brokers who are not big enough to compete. Speculation has surrounded Willis Corroon and Sedgwick, the UK's two biggest. Both have high expenses relative to turnover and some in the industry believe that they should merge and embark on, yes, that rigorous cost-cutting.

In such a climate, the merger of JIB and Lloyd Thompson could bear fruit for both. The new company becomes the third-biggest broker in the UK, with strengths in a number of niche markets.

Shares in fellow brokers were up again yesterday; clearly the market believes this is far from being the last big deal in the sector.

Seeking value in strange places

ANOTHER day, another defeat for Brian Myerson and Julian Tregor and their UK Active Value fund. Just whose value they are actively promoting and by how much is never quite clear — registration in the British Virgin Islands tends to see to that. But Kenwood shareholders have little to thank the duo for.

Myerson and Tregor are self-styled corporate governance guerrillas, who claim to go into underperforming companies and take them apart, using strategic stakes as their lever. Their record is mixed, and their involvement in the affairs of Kenwood suffered a strong rebuff yesterday, more than 90 per cent of the other shareholders backing the board.

As has been the case before, it is not too clear what UK Active was trying to achieve. The idea

was to put Kenwood up for sale — but how? Any quoted company is for sale; all it needs is a buyer and the willingness of the owners, the investors, to sell. There is a buyer, in the shape of Pifco, a rather more successful maker of kitchen appliances. Pifco has been in talks with Kenwood since July at least, from which one may assume that these are not now going to reach a friendly conclusion.

There is nothing UK Active can do to force an agreement. The Kenwood board now has a few months' grace, ahead of full-year figures that should give a clearer indication of the finances. Alternatively, Pifco could always try a hostile bid.

Halifax solution

THERE is an easy solution to the technical dilemma that has kept the Halifax out of the various City indices. The authorities are concerned that a scramble for stock by institutions might send the price soaring — and, presumably, offer private sellers an unacceptable premium. The Halifax should introduce a "revolving door", easy sale facility for those of its nine million members who want cash up front. The society avoids the expense of servicing a huge register of investors, and the City gets its shares at once.

Repackaged stores help MFI to advance 63%

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM AND CHRIS AYRES

NEW-LOOK stores and a recovery in consumer confidence combined to propel profits at MFI, Britain's largest kitchen and bedroom furniture group, 63 per cent higher in the first half.

In the six months ending November 9 pre-tax profits were £32.7 million, compared with £20.1 million a year ago. John Randall, chief executive, said that in MFI's view the

housing market remains dormant. He said the 13.5 per cent like-for-like sales growth was instead thanks to improved consumer confidence and the new format MFI Homeworks stores, which are replacing traditional MFI outlets.

The converted stores have a broader range of goods on offer, wider aisles and natural lighting. A total of 78 out of MFI's 184 UK-stores are now

trading as MFI Homeworks, with another 40 conversions planned for next year.

Homeworks stores are smaller, and the conversions have allowed MFI to sub-lease 130,000 square feet of retailing space. The group is currently negotiating with tenants to increase this to 300,000 square feet by the end of the year. If all the space is leased, it will give annual savings of up to £4

million. Derek Hunt, chairman, said the sub-lease programme allows the company to hedge against future rent rises and takes advantage of the high demand for out-of-town and edge-of-town sites created by restrictive planning regulations.

MFI will also be heavily investing in Howden Joinery, the builders' warehouse chain, which now has 24 depots. This number is set to double by the end of the next financial year, with new depots planned for the Midlands and the South of England.

Mr Hunt said MFI had benefited from the strength of the pound, which had pushed down the cost of raw materials in Europe. In the first half, like-for-like sales in the French stores were 11 per cent ahead but trade there is now being hampered by difficult market conditions.

The company is to open a handful of new outlets in Spain, where it currently has three small stores.

Earnings per share rose 62 per cent to 3.85p and the interim dividend has been increased to 1.7p. It is payable on February 7.



John Randall puts MFI's success down to consumer confidence and a new format

Tempos, page 24

Gibbs Mew shares hit by fall in profits

SHARES of Gibbs Mew fell 89p yesterday, to 210p, after the pub operator and brewer disclosed a sharp decline in first-half profits, and gave a warning to investors that second-half profits would also fall short of expectations (Martin Barrow writes).

The company, based in Salisbury, Wiltshire, said that pre-tax profits fell to £960,000 before tax, from £2.52 million, in the 24 weeks to September 14. Earnings fell to 5.25p a share, from 14.99p. The interim dividend is held at 4p a share. Profits were affected by a £470,000 charge against the cost of closing the offices of Centric, a Midlands pub group acquired in 1994, while launching new brands and "continuing competitive pressures" also applied the squeeze.

JIB agrees £300m insurance merger

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LOYD THOMPSON and JIB Group, the commercial insurance brokers, have announced plans to merge, forming the third-largest broker in the UK (See Pennington, this page).

The new company, to be known as Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group, will have a market capitalisation of almost £300 million and combined profits of around £38 million. Only Willis Corroon and Sedgwick will be larger.

The City responded positively, and shares in JIB rose 21p, to 130p, while Lloyd Thompson rose 12p, to 174p.

Attention also turned to Willis and Sedgwick, with brokers speculating that they might be forced to take defensive action, perhaps in the form of a merger. Shares of Willis rose 4p, to 135p, and Sedgwick by 5p, to 132p.

Speculation also pushed up the price of Commercial Union shares, which was rumoured last week to have considered a deal with BAT Industries.

JIB shareholders will be offered four new Lloyd Thompson shares for every five JIB shares held under the terms of the merger, which is expected to take place in February. Lloyd Thompson shareholders will hold approximately 43 per cent and JIB shareholders approximately 57 per cent of the share capital of the new company.

Lloyd Thompson specialises in the UK, European and Bermudan markets, while JIB operates in 30 countries worldwide. Lloyd Thompson said that it intended to pay a special dividend of 6p net per Lloyd Thompson share, subject to the merger going ahead.

Newman Tonks rises after offer

RIVAL bidders are circling Newman Tonks, the building materials group, which has already turned down a tentative offer for the company from FKI, the engineering group (Carl Mortished writes).

Shares in Newman Tonks surged from 102p to 129p yesterday as the stock market reacted to news of FKI's approach. FKI approached Newman Tonks last week with indications that it would be prepared to make a cash offer of 134p per share.

The Newman Tonks board believes the indicative price is insufficient but FKI may offer a higher price. At 134p, a bid would value the company at £171 million. Other parties are believed to be interested in the group. Tempos, page 24

Levitt fails to show for court

A warrant was issued yesterday for the arrest of Roger Levitt, the disgraced former life and pensions salesman, after he failed to attend court to answer a charge of breaking a ban on acting as a director. Mr Levitt, banned for seven years in 1993 after pleading guilty to misleading financial regulators, had been accused of taking on a shadow directorship of International Boxing Corporation (IBC).

Hemsley ahead

Raphael Zorn Hemsley, the broker, lifted pre-tax profits to £746,208 (£235,000) in the year to September 30. Earnings were 4.1p a share (1.5p). RZH plans to acquire Insurance Analysts, a Lloyd's adviser, in exchange for the issue of 1.7 million ordinary shares, worth around £1.4 million.

ASW disposal

ASW, the steel stockholding company, is raising £33 million through the sale of AML, its metal recycling operations, to Philip Environmental, the Canadian industrial services company. The sale is subject to shareholder approval.

Prism Rail in £11m cash call

By MARTIN BARROW

PRISM RAIL, which owns more privatised train franchises than any other company, is raising £11.2 million through a rights issue.

The proceeds will be used to part-fund the £19 million capital requirement laid down by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising. Prism secured the West Anglia Great Northern (WAGN) franchise this month.

The company is offering five new shares for every 28 held at 330p each. Existing shares fell 5p to 445p yesterday. The shares were issued at 100p this year.

Prism, based in Keighley, West Yorkshire, has won four franchises — WAGN, LTS Rail, South Wales & West Railway (SWW) and Cardiff

Railway Company (CRC) — and is shortlisted for two more, North West Regional Railways and Scotrail.

Yesterday, Prism reported financial results for the 36 weeks to August 17, showing a pre-tax loss of £336,000, mainly reflecting the cost of bidding for franchises. The results included 20 weeks of trading at LTS Rail, the first franchise it won, covering the former London, Tilbury & Southend line.

Godfrey Burley, chairman of Prism, said: "Prism already has a substantial and viable business. The board looks forward to the challenge of implementing its business plans for the four franchises which it has been awarded to date."

Howden sees order intake increase 17%

HOWDEN GROUP, the engineer, enjoyed a 17 per cent rise in its order intake, to £284 million, in the first half after a dramatic pick-up in the second quarter offset a slow start to the year (Martin Barrow writes).

However, pre-tax profits were little changed, at £11 million, in the half to October 31, against £11 million previously, and earnings per share fell to 2.4p, from 2.6p, reflecting an increase in minority interests. The interim dividend rises by 5 per cent, to 1p.

Operating profits fell to £12.4 million, from £13.4 million, in spite of a £330,000 contribution from acquisitions. The decline was partly offset by a fall in interest charges to £1.37 million, from £2.44 million. The strong pound cut first-half profits by £600,000. Howden said it would continue to inhibit its growth in the short term.

Bizarre twist to options dealing mystery

Elusive Booth returns cash

BRITON Mark Booth, the alleged insider dealer who made a £82 million (£1 million) profit from options dealing ahead of KPN's £82 billion bid for TNT, took an unexpected twist yesterday when it emerged Mr Booth had asked his broker to give the money to the investors from whom he acquired the stock (Rachel Bridge writes).

Mr Booth, who went missing when the Australian Securities Commission (ASC) launched an investigation into his transaction in September, sent an unmarked fax to Ord Minnett, his brokers, at the weekend with his request.

A spokeswoman for the ASC, which has spent the past two months trying to track down Mr Booth, said: "It is bizarre. He has kissed all the money goodbye, including his initial investment. We still don't know whether he has done anything wrong. We would love to talk to him."

Mr Booth invested £90,000 in options two weeks before KPN's surprise bid for TNT was announced, ordering the options by telephone and paying with untraceable bank cheques. The only communication from him until now had been a fax sent to his brokers, instructing them what to do with the proceeds.

The profits were frozen in a cash management account while the ASC searched for Mr Booth — believed to be an alias — and will now be distributed to the previous owners of the options.

The ASC said it will continue to search for Booth until it goes back to court to resolve the matter in February. Chris Gorman, managing director of Ord Minnett, said: "As far as we're concerned the matter is largely closed. We have no way of contacting Mr Booth and we don't expect to hear from Mr Booth again."

May we take this opportunity to tell our friends that, this year, we are not sending Christmas cards. Instead, we're making donations to several local children's charities and hospices.

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May we take this opportunity to tell our friends that, this year, we are not sending Christmas cards. Instead, we're making donations to several local children's charities and hospices.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Hunting for words at MFI

A FIRST for Derek Hunt, MFI's flamboyant chairman, who was unusually lost for words at yesterday's interim results meeting.

Asked for his predictions on the future of the housing market, Hunt replied rather early: "If I was as good at predicting things as you think I am, then surely I would be a millionaire." A voice in the crowd piped up: "But you are a millionaire."

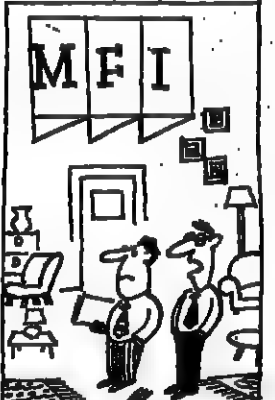
For once, Hunt looked crestfallen.

Silent night

POOR Stephen Davidson, the acting chief executive of TeleWest, the largest cable company, had hoped to learn in November whether he would be confirmed as full-time chief executive, replacing Alan Michaels. But the TeleWest board could not make up its mind and begged for more time: it would let him know by the end of the year. It is still too early, however, to wish him a Merry Christmas. Davidson has just learned that the TeleWest board will now make its decision on January 23. So much for happy holidays.

Herd laughing

CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Herd and Barry Leighton who were yesterday appointed directors at Société Générale. Previously at Paribas and Morgan Grenfell, Herd will specialise in international mergers and acquisitions in the financial institutions sector. When he left his first post at Price Waterhouse, senior partner Ian Brindle, remarked that Herd was the only person who made him laugh in the morning. Yes, but how?



"We could make more by letting it fully furnished"

Bosses' faith

ALMOST 86 per cent of executive directors who run UK-listed companies have sufficient faith in the business to retain a large chunk of their original holding, buy shares or take up more via option schemes, according to a survey commissioned by Price Waterhouse. The bad news is that around 16 per cent have no stake in the companies that they manage. Gary Ashworth, the founding chairman of Abacus Recruitment, is out in the lead with a 90.9 per cent stake, the biggest block of share capital owned by any one director. Also up there is Kim Tan, with a 79.9 per cent stake in KS Biomedix Holdings, and Russell Nathan, with an 87.1 per cent holding in Romtec, the IT provider.

Inside story

A NEW YEAR and a new start for Duncan Hopper, the controversial managing director of Legal & General's healthcare division. Having joined the insurance company when it set up its healthcare arm almost two years ago, Hopper is now on his way out. According to an insider, his departure is the result of a "personality clash" with David Prosser, L&G's chief executive. Maybe this will give Hopper, a short-story writer for *Granta*, the opportunity to develop his bent for writing.

MORAG PRESTON



European Airbus flying in the livery of USAir. The Boeing merger has considerable implications for the future of the Airbus consortium

Boeing marriage leaves BAe in need of a 'grand alliance'

The US aviation merger puts immediate pressure on Europe's aerospace industry to effect a strategy that will enable it to continue in competition. Oliver August reports

The aerospace industry has not been hit by an alliance quite like this for a while. Boeing, the world's number one, is taking McDonnell Douglas, the number three, to the altar. Together they could have the power to dictate procurement prices to airlines and air forces around the world unless Europe can produce a competitor of equal weight.

Boeing, as the joint company will be known, is emerging as the undisputed top dog in the battle with its rival Lockheed Martin. Anti-trust regulators could still mug the newly-weds en route to the honeymoon but this deal is not highly controversial. Unlike the BA-American Airlines link-up, the companies are bringing complementary talents into the union.

Boeing cornered the civil aviation market without ever really gaining a foothold on the military side, which is where McDonnell Douglas has been dominant throughout the Cold War. Together the two hope to save \$1 billion a year, which looks only mildly impressive compared to Lockheed's aim of saving closer to \$3 billion.

The deal has rattled a few feathers in the United States where Lockheed is Boeing's main competitor but it has been preparing for such a move with its own acquisition of Martin Marietta, which temporarily put it ahead of Boeing in terms of sales. But it is in Europe, specifically British Aerospace and its European partners, that the long-term impact will really be felt.

Most current BAe projects will be affected by the Boeing deal and every BAe division will need to review its strategic plans. Just when it seemed to be drawing level, Europe's aerospace industry has to play catch-up again. The fact that Airbus matched Boeing's orders in 1994 no longer matters.

But Sir Richard Evans, chief executive of BAe, will not have been completely surprised by the new situation. Much to his credit, BAe has been advocating for years that European aerospace and defence companies need to consolidate to survive. His message will now be heard louder and clearer than before.

The primary reason for consolidation is the ending of the Cold War. Defence budgets around the world have been squeezed to harvest a peace dividend. This was especially true in America, where a political sea change has been effected by the loss of lucrative defence contracts.

The cost of modern aircraft is another factor. Whether in military or civilian aviation, rising standards have only been achieved by increasing costs. With every new generation, the bills are marked up. Today the development, let alone the production, of aircraft is so expensive that costs must be spread across borders. Taxpayers are no longer

prepared to fund the duplication of research and production facilities for the privilege of putting the national flag on the finished product.

Where does this leave BAe? The company faces three strategic options. First, it could try to join the American bandwagon and build one or more transatlantic alliances. BAe would by no means be entering new ground here. McDonnell Douglas, Boeing's bride, used to be BAe's running mate. Together the two made the Harrier jump-jet a world-wide success.

But recently the relationship has lost its way. Last month, their bid to build the Joint Strike Fighter, the navy fighter jet for the next century, was thrown out by the Pentagon before the tendering had started. While Lockheed and Boeing were given more than \$300 million each to develop prototypes, BAe and McDonnell Douglas were left to offer their expertise to those two. Now that Boeing has found a partner, Lockheed may try

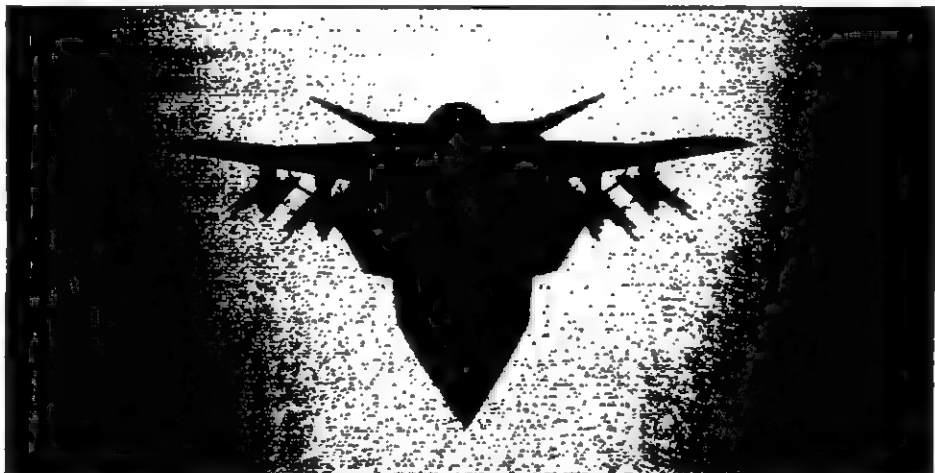
even harder to get BAe on board.

However, this could only work as a one-off. BAe should not enter a transatlantic partnership because it would end up as the junior partner irrespective of who it picks. Even were it to team up with a smaller US company, American secrecy laws are such that the US company would ultimately be in the driving seat.

Nevertheless, being in the driving seat is what BAe has shown itself to be very good at. Its biggest order this year, the Nimrod maritime aircraft, is a case in point. BAe acts as primary contractor, passing workshops to subcontractors.

The new BAe has been purpose-built for such projects by Sir Richard.

If a US link-up is out, could this be the time to revive Lord Weinstock's old dream of merging BAe and GEC? The arguments against this are still the same. Creating "national champions" is a dangerous game to play. Such industrial giants become so



The proposed Joint Strike Fighter, a failed BAe project with McDonnell Douglas

Eric Reguly on Hollinger's surprise newspaper sale

Media 'gem' loses its lustre

One of the longest media battles came to a surprise ending yesterday when Hollinger International, the newspaper group controlled by Conrad Black, sold its 25 per cent stake in John Fairfax Holdings to Brierley Investments of New Zealand for A\$544 million (£260 million).

The move caught the newspaper industry off guard because Hollinger had considered Fairfax, publisher of the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Melbourne Age*, both among the most profitable dailies in the world, a gem. Furthermore, the buyer is not known for its media investments around the world, ranging from 46 per cent of Thistle Hotels in Britain to half of Sky City, a casino in Auckland.

Mr Black, Hollinger's chairman, said that he simply lost patience with the Australian Government and its media ownership restrictions, which prevented Hollinger from raising its stake beyond 25 per cent. Mr Black said: "It was clear to us that there was no way forward. We gave it five years and we did everything possible to get a control position."

Hollinger, whose flagship papers are *The Daily Telegraph* and its Sunday sister, acquired a stake in Fairfax in 1991 as part of the Towering consortium, which paid A\$1.45 billion for the ailing publisher and set out to reverse its fortunes.

Two years later, Hollinger, convinced that the Fairfax turnaround was in place, raised its Fairfax ownership to 25 per cent. But the real challenge was convincing Paul Keating, then Labour Prime Minister, to relax the media ownership restric-

tions. The effort became more urgent two years ago when Mr Black found Kerry Packer, Australia's wealthiest businessman, and Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, nipping at his heels. Mr Packer bought a 15 per cent stake in Fairfax while News Corp tucked about 5 per cent into its portfolio. Mr Black doubled his efforts to raise his Fairfax stake to 35 per cent at 25 per cent he was a sitting duck. He said at the time: "The problem is, if there were a takeover offer we'd be vulnerable."

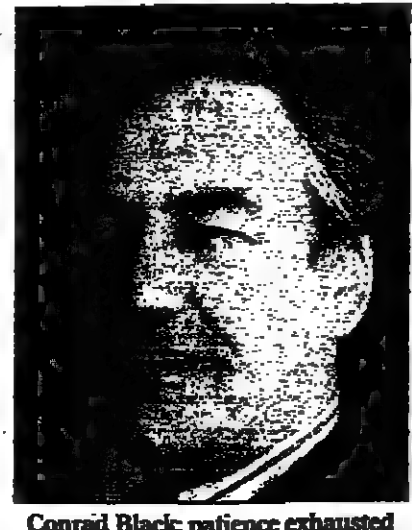
The campaign failed, but Mr Black did not give up hope. In March, Mr Keating lost the election and John Howard, the

Liberal Prime Minister, hinted that the ownership rules would change. In the end, the restrictions remained and Mr Black made good his threat to get out. The effort was not a total loss. He said Hollinger will book a capital gain of about US\$220 million on the Fairfax sale.

Hollinger, an acquisitions machine by nature, will not spend the money immediately. Instead, it will be used to eliminate some Hollinger debt. "We might enjoy having a conservative balance sheet for a while," Mr Black said.

But Hollinger never sits still for long. There is speculation that it would like to expand its small-town newspaper business in the US — it has run out of room in Canada and has shown little interest in buying another national paper in Britain — and may go after the Journal Register chain in the North East. The papers are owned by Warburg Pincus, the investment bank that owns a stake in Channel 5, Britain's new terrestrial broadcaster.

Brierley's plans for Fairfax are not known. Paul Collins, chief executive, said that Brierley "looks forward to being a supportive, long-term shareholder", but observers note that the group makes a living by buying and selling investments. They would not be surprised if Brierley was holding the Fairfax shares for another buyer, who could be Kerry Packer. He is still keen to own Fairfax but cannot go beyond 15 per cent because of his television interests. Mr Packer may be gambling that the Government will change the media ownership rules sooner rather than later. If so, he will know on which door to knock.



Conrad Black: patience exhausted



Talking euro nonsense

The single currency project has always been a tool to take power over European interest rates out of the hands of meddling politicians. It has always been designedly anti-democratic.

In exchange for giving up economic sovereignty, European leaders were offered a virtuous straitjacket that would drive out the evils of inflation, competitive devaluation and fiscal recklessness. Europe would be forced to seek greater competitiveness in world markets not through beggar-thy-neighbour ill-discipline but through lasting structural change. In the face of opposition from long-coosied electorates, Europe would modernise. A super-European currency may even challenge the dollar's supremacy as the world's reserve currency.

Of course, these economic arguments have always been subsidiary to the political ambitions of France and Germany, still exercised with postwar paranoia. Britain, with its historical and emotional ties with the Commonwealth and America has never felt quite the same way about building a unified Europe. But neither does Britain share the same view of single currency economics. Britain has little interest in competing with the dollar, not least because sterling's value is as much determined by movements in the US currency as economic developments at home or in Europe.

After the Dublin summit, it is clear that the economic arguments for the single currency — credible or not — are fast imploding as France reasserts its national sovereignty. It was determined not to give in to German demands for a Stability Pact that would impose automatic penalties on member states not playing by the fiscal rules. As France wanted, the Dublin compromise leaves elected politicians with the final say on whether a country should be fined or not and by how much.

Fascinatingly, Jacques Chirac has now hinted that politicians should co-ordinate their desires on monetary policy too. Far from crying foul, Alexandre Lamfalussy, head of the European Monetary Institute that will turn into the independent European Central Bank, has admitted that politicians will continue to play a role. Outside control of the ECB would be in complete contradiction of the Maastricht treaty, he said. Dialogue would not. M Lamfalussy said that he could conceive of sudden changes in the financing needs of a large country with unacceptable consequences for others. "To avoid this, there must be ex ante co-ordination of policies. Finance ministers must agree

among themselves, talk among themselves," he said. Unless Germany baulks at the whole thing, what is in prospect is a European talking shop, a street market today with professional hagglers, an interminable teleconference where executive decisions are held up because satellite reception from Greece is fuzzy and Britain refuses to accept its share of the cost, a monthly monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George, held nightmarishly in a hall of mirrors.

This is not to say that sovereignty over economic decision-making and democratic accountability are expendable. They are not. But to give away some control, a bit of sovereignty, in exchange for partial monetary discipline from a central bank still subject to ministerial nods and winks seems like a very bad bargain indeed. This new system would make the Brussels bureaucracy, already regarded with such suspicion by European voters, look positively streamlined.

In deciding to join the exchange-rate mechanism, Britain, cowed by decades of bad macroeconomic management, opted for handing over effective control of its monetary policy to the

It is clear that the economic arguments for the single currency are fast imploding

which at least boasted a proven record of success in defending its currency and fighting inflation. The loss of flexibility and control that that experiment entailed still leaves most Britons extremely suspicious of things European. The prospect of economic policy made in Paris is likely to prove positively distasteful.

Of course, there will be optimists returning home from Dublin who will argue that recent deals will rightly reassure the electorate on sovereignty while, as a minimum, ensuring the discipline conferred by an independent European central bank. But why should any of us have confidence in a confusing mish-mash, arrived at because the political aspirations of France and Germany were, at root, incompatible and pushed through because they were too proud to admit it?

Euro-enthusiasts argue that only chaos would ensue if the project is abandoned, that all the fiscal and monetary discipline that striving to meet the Maastricht criteria has enforced would break down. That is to give up entirely on the duty of governments to pursue sensible economic policies. It also ignores the fact that there is no better source of discipline than that of the market. How much swifter and more objective the punishment for economic recklessness imposed by the markets than a Stability Pact subject to political negotiation.

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Equities up but gilts weaken

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1236	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1236	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1237	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1238	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1239	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1240	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

BANKS

1241	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1241	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1242	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1243	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1244	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1245	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1246	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1246	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1247	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1248	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1249	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1250	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1251	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1251	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1252	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1253	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1254	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1255	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

BUILDING MATERIALS

1256	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1256	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1257	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1258	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1259	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1260	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

CHEMICALS

1261	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1261	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1262	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1263	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1264	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1265	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

DISTRIBUTORS

1266	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1266	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1267	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1268	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1269	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1270	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1271	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1271	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1272	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1273	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1274	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1275	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1276	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1276	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1277	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1278	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1279	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1280	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

HEALTHCARE

1281	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1281	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1282	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1283	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1284	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1285	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1286	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1286	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1287	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1288	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1289	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1290	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

INSURANCE

1291	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1291	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1292	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1293	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1294	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1295	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1296	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1296	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1297	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1298	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1299	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1300	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1301	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1301	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1302	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1303	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1304	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1305	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

LONGS (over 15 years)

1306	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1306	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1307	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1308	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1309	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1310	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

UNLISTED

1311	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1311	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1312	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1313	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1314	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1315	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

1316	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1316	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1317	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1318	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1319	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1320	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

PRINTING & PAPER

1321	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1321	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1322	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1323	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1324	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1325	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

PROPERTY

1326	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1326	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1327	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1328	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1329	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1330	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1331	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1331	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1332	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1333	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1334	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1335	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1336	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1336	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1337	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1338	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1339	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1340	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

TRANSPORT

1341	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1341	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1342	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1343	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1344	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1345	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

RETAILERS FOOD

1346	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1346	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1347	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1348	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1349	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1350	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

RETAILERS GENERAL

1351	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1351	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1352	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1353	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1354	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1355	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5

WATER

1356	High	Low	Company	Price	Yield	%	PE
1356	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1357	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1358	41	40	Guinness	40.50	4.5	12.5	12.5
1359	41	40	Guinness	40.50			

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Richard Long's topographical show inaugurates the refurbished Spaxex gallery in Exeter



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park Phillip King reveals his latest work

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

At Oxford, Professor Martin Kemp reveals plans to turn the old jail into a visual arts centre



■ VISUAL ART 4

Thirties decor revisited: a new exhibition pays homage to the singular designs of Betty Joel

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork reviews evocative shows in the West Country and Yorkshire. Plus London exhibitions

The Long and winding road

Between the Arncliffe in Bristol and the Tate St Ives, the West Country is poorly supplied with galleries devoted to contemporary art. Even at Exeter, where the admirable Spaxex has pursued a lively exhibition policy in city-centre premises, a large-scale refurbishment scheme forced the gallery's closure this year. But now the improved and extended premises have been completed, and their reopening heralds an ambitious new era for this landmark, much-needed institution.

Spaxex developed during the late 1970s from a group of artists' studios set up in a three-storey Victorian warehouse. Public exhibitions have been held on the ground floor for 18 years, but the facilities gradually became inadequate. Artists today often require a surprising amount of room to display their work, and galleries increasingly recognise the importance of providing a substantial back-up programme of educational events. So with funds provided by the National Lottery, the Foundation for Sport and the Arts and the Henry Moore Foundation, rebuilding began in 1995.

The outcome fully justifies the money and effort involved. Designed by Nicholas Gilbert Scott, the split-level galleries now provide ample space for even the most complex and demanding installations. In the old courtyard area, where the warehouse abuts the city's medieval and Roman walls, a luminous atrium provides room for workshops and lectures. The office has been banished to the basement, making way for a glazed entrance and reception area, while a new lighting system has transformed the visibility of exhibits throughout the space.

The real test for any gallery centres on its ability to accommodate the art on display. And by choosing Richard Long for the inaugural show, Spaxex has scored a triumph. Always supremely sensitive to the character of the places where he works, Long uses these new rooms with aplomb. One gallery is dominated by a vast wall image, vigorously applied by hand. Monumental in itself, and surrounded by flicks, splatters and drips testifying to the vigour of its making, this awesome presence evokes the immensity of the landscape Long explores on his walks.

Traversing the earth's surface throughout the world has provided

him with a perpetual stimulus for more than a quarter of a century. For the Spaxex show, though, he took the apt decision to concentrate on an area of special, local significance. Born in Bristol and still living near the city today, he discovered Dartmoor on childhood visits to his grandparents. The bareness of the moor ignited his imagination, introducing him to a primordial world where only the most elemental of sculptural forms withstand exposure.

Since 1969 Long has returned there regularly. As if in tribute to an area that played such a formative role in the development of his art, he has produced a substantial number of Dartmoor-inspired works. Once, during a two-day walk, he laid out a stone circle descended directly from the earliest

Stone clusters are positioned with spare and graceful finality

surviving manifestations of the sculptural impulse in Britain. Related stone clusters have been assembled on the floor at Spaxex, positioned with the spare, graceful finality which distinguishes all Long's work.

He accompanies them with a selection of written works framed on the walls. Some are deliberately simple, recounting how he walked around a cairn at Great Gurns Head a hundred times in the mist. Others shape words into primal forms redolent of his passage across the land, like the 60-minute "circle walk" he carried out on Dartmoor in 1984.

Long's limpid, potent and utterly single-minded art is untroubled by the kind of convulsive changes undergone by Phillip King's sculpture in recent years. He made his reputation in the 1960s by working principally with fibreglass, metal and plastic, exploring an abstract language with an often flamboyant eye for colour. But suddenly, around 1990, King began producing furrowed bronzes where figures could be discerned, often conveying

distress or macabre humour. At once playful and anguished, they marked a disturbing departure.

Now, however, King has altered again. As an exhibition of new work at Yorkshire Sculpture Park reveals, he has returned to more abstract forms without yielding the ability to surprise. For this is a show of ceramic vessels, modelled in clay mixed with grog and paper pulp. He thrives on the increasing changeability of materials today, and at the same time finds nourishment in the most ancient traditions.

The springboard for his vessels came from a stay in Japan. He started making small vessels on a potter's wheel, and became fascinated by the products of Jomon, the oldest ceramic culture in the world. But King has no intention of copying Japanese precedents. The vessels in his new exhibition belong firmly within his own imaginative world, and their initial air of serenity soon gives way to unease.

Although the word "vessel" may lead us to expect a consoling wholeness, he ensures that they are riddled with signs of disharmony. Forms often turn out to be shattered, and in *Cup Drift* the tilted central object lies half-buried, like a beaker abandoned in the desert. It may arise from King's recollections of a childhood spent in Tunisia, so these ceramic vessels are in one respect a throwback to King's earliest memories, when he first became aware of the mystery inherent in archaeological remains. But they also chime with his preoccupations in the early 1960s, when he would make a compact cone and then slit or slice it through. In the same spirit, he now ensures that the barrel crowning a vessel called *The Watcher* has been pierced by a triangular hole. The plinth-like form below is gashed, and a curving form leaps like a breaking wave from the shadowy interior. It is a startling eruption, both exuberant and erotic.

Most of the vessels, though, concentrate on a more restrained interplay between swollen volumes and sharp penetrations. In the Cubist-influenced *Eye Vessel*, the ripeness of the body is assuaged by jagged cavities. But two cups are lodged invitingly at the centre of the sculpture, countering the brittle tension elsewhere.

Occasionally, the vessels take on a human identity. *Bodhisattva* suggests, in its rounded contours, a



One of Richard Long's works at Spaxex in Exeter recalls the stone circle he laid out on Dartmoor

female figure. But her promise of fulfilment is threatened by the rigid, rectangular structure interrupting the gentle swell of her body. The high biscuit firing King employs instead of conventional glazing gives the vessels a stone finish, as bleached as the moonlit Islamic buildings he remembers

admiring in his childhood. That is why these poised and authoritative new works have such a commanding presence. Despite their wilful contradictions, they end up affirming an immemorial stillness. The pleasure King takes in exploring his new motif is clear. And in *Tree Vessel* he sums up this excitement

by transforming its spout into a sapling. Only a single green leaf springs from the branches, but its promise of future renewal is unmistakable.

Richard Long at Spaxex Gallery, Exeter (01392 431788) until Saturday; Phillip King at Yorkshire Sculpture Park (01924 830302) until Jan 12

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IN THE firmament of modern design, Betty Joel (1894-1985) was a shooting star, tremendously famous for barely ten years and then almost completely forgotten. She was born and brought up in China, where her father, Sir James Stewart Lockhart, was a diplomat and Colonial Secretary in Hong Kong. In 1921 she married David Joel, a naval commander, whose hobby was carpentry; he made much of the furniture for their first home, she criticised his designs, he challenged her to do better, and she did. In 1923 they set up a small business, and two years later opened a West End shop; in 1926 they were so successful that they built a factory on Kingston Bypass. Betty was the designer, and among her commissions were interiors for the new Bank of England, the lobby and reading room of the *Daily Express* building in Fleet Street, and offices and libraries for the Shell-Mex building, the Savoy Hotel and many grand private patrons. But in 1937 the Joels' marriage broke up. Betty retired completely, and apparently never had anything more to do with design for the rest of her long life. Her distinctive style is mostly streamlined Modernism on the French model, but produced according to British Arts and Crafts ideals, with here and there a hint of her Chinese childhood peeking through.

There has never been a solo exhibition or a thorough reappraisal of her work, until now. The Joel exhibition, which includes Betty's famous circular bed and a veneered office interior reconstructed, is staged in Foulk Lewis's new premises in Kingston Exchange, not far from the Joel factory. Foulk Lewis, *The Kingston Exchange*, 29-31 London Road, Kingston-upon-Thames (0181-549 2004), until Jan 31

IT IS only stating the obvious to categorise Kitty North's paintings as "landscape-based abstractions", but much more difficult to give any adequate idea of the impression they make in the flesh, one is tempted to say, so flesh, edible even, do they appear. This show takes us through the various stages of creation, from the dashing on-the-spot sketches, which stay close to impressionistic representation, through the more finished pastels and small oils, where the documentary is gradually formalised out of the picture, and then to the larger oils, where the original facts of the landscape are buried in a lava-flow of paint. The result of this build-up is a highly tactile surface of delicately calculated colour.

Swan Mead Gallery, 1-4 Swan Mead, Tower Bridge Road, SE1 (0171-394 0733), until the weekend.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Professor plots his prison break-out

Oxford don Martin Kemp tells Isabel Carlisle about his plans for a visual arts centre in the old jail

When Martin Kemp, the new Professor of History of Art at Oxford University, was interviewed for the job, he said he wanted to "take the teaching of visual matters out of the ghettos of the art history department". Few of those who appointed him could have realised how quickly, and how unusually, he would put his ideas into practice.

For the past six months Kemp has been working on a visual arts project centred on the now empty buildings of Oxford Prison. A consortium made up of the developer Jacobs Holdings, the Oxford Museum of Modern Art, the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, the university's art history department and the County Museum has put a

detailed proposal to Oxford County Council for a new cultural and artistic centre on the site. They are now shortlisted alongside three other proposals: two for hotels, offices and shops combined, and one for an expansion by St Peter's College which abuts the site. All four will be presented to a public meeting at County Hall today. The result should be announced at the end of January.

When Oxford Prison was closed last September the Home Office offered the county council the chance to buy the site back for £9,000 (the amount which the town had

sold it for in the 1870s). Proposals were then invited for the site's development, with the brief to create 20,000 square feet of extra offices for County Hall and to make public access to the rest of the site a priority. Bounded by New Road on one side and Paradise Street on the other, the site contains the mound of Oxford's Anglo-Saxon castle, the medieval St George's Tower and the complex of prison buildings dating from the late 18th century.

There is not much scope for new architecture since many of the existing buildings are listed Grade I. Instead the

excitement comes from the possibility of opening Oxford Castle to the public once more and turning the prison buildings into spaces that both the city and the university can use. For Kemp, it means creating the right setting for his new visual studies course, as well as the chance to link art history to art teaching and to the pioneering work being done by Oxford MOMA in exploring the possibilities of video and film in art.

Plans drawn up for the consortium by the Oxford Architects Partnership give the visual studies centre a separate complex of new

buildings in the southeast corner, while Oxford MOMA is aiming to build a state-of-the-art film theatre that would also run a programme for the public.

If the consortium's bid is successful, an estimated £20 million-plus will have to be raised by all the participants together to complete the development. But as Kemp says: "No other centre will have this large a brief, coming across traditional ideas about the fine arts. If you look at younger artists today, you see them using video, computer art and installation alongside painting and sculpture. This is all about getting rid of limitations and inhibitions." That is something for which a liberated prison site should be an appropriate setting.



Kemp: "No other centre will have so large a brief"

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FILM

The Hollywood dream is tested by reality, as a young screenwriter pitches her idea to the moguls



MUSIC 1

Maurizio Pollini continues his majestic progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC 2

Toscanini's finest hours: the maestro's best recordings are selected in Building a Library



TOMORROW

Raring to be Blanche: Jessica Lange prepares to make her West End stage debut

Ludwig in the round

HARDLY a seat was left unfilled as Maurizio Pollini reached the second stage in his progress through the Beethoven piano sonatas in seven programmes, each of which is being repeated in Paris and Vienna as he goes. His latest instalment comprised no fewer than six sonatas, in which his playing reflected intellectual perception as well as technical brilliance.

He modified the strict chronological sequence to finish

Maurizio Pollini Festival Hall

with a finely judged account of the universally familiar *Pathétique Sonata*, Op 13, not so bold in attack as some have made it but with a degree of inner passion that gave a sense of magnificence to the work at the outset, and then played the famous slow movement with a welcome momentum as well as feeling.

Pollini preceded this with the two sonatas of Op 14, composed at much the same time but published a little later. Here Beethoven is in debt to Mozart for the classical sobriety and sociable elegance of Op 14 No 1. Rhythmic lilt and disarming sentiment abounded here, and if the Allegretto middle movement was not as fast as Beethoven himself was said to have played it, its simplicity of effect was to be treasured, as was the playful spirit of the finale.

The lighthearted charm Pollini brought to this was redoubled in the second of the sonatas, in G major, where the flowing figuration of the first movement could almost be said to anticipate Chopin, and the responsive ebullience of the finger work was pursued throughout the piece, touch and tone in ideal balance.

The programme had begun with the three sonatas of Op 10 from a year or two earlier, when Beethoven for the most part harped back to previous Classical models while filling the outlines with new ideas. Possibly a piano of Beethoven's time would have sounded less bass-heavy than did some of the keyboard writing, but the playing enriched the character of the music without affectation.

NOEL GOODWIN

Go on, make me an offer

Clare Bayley, the winner of *The Times* Screenwriting Competition, travels to Hollywood to sell her ideas



Clare Bayley: "It seems that British screenwriters have a particular prestige in Hollywood at the moment. But I get a variety of responses from the studios. I decide not to pitch my story to anyone"

The story is simple, formulaic even. A young English woman wins a screenwriting competition and is flown over to Hollywood to sell her script. Great idea, but that is not the one I am selling: it is the one I am living. The film treatment I am selling won the approval of the four eminent British film-makers judging the competition — David Aukin (Channel 4), Mark Shivas (BBC), Norma Heyman (who produced *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Secret Agent*) and Tim Bevan of Working Title — and I am currently developing the first draft with Zephyr Films in London. It is a thriller set in Finland, its main character is a young Englishwoman on a quest to find her father, and the love interest is an older, gay, alcoholic Finn.

It is not exactly what is known in Hollywood as a "high concept" film. Hostile aliens hovering over the White House, now that is high concept. My screenplay, *Corridors in the Air*, is what is politely called a "high execution" piece — it is not what you say, it is the way that you say it. And so far there are only ten pages of a treatment to judge by. Oh well, the best stories need seemingly insurmountable obstacles before the third-act resolution.

In LA in December it is 70 degrees and sunny, and everything seems possible in these conditions. I check into the swanky Sunset Marquis hotel just off Sunset Boulevard, where Michael Hutchence is already lunching by the pool. In high spirits I cruise off in my hire car for a meeting at one of Tinseltown's top agencies. Waiting for my appointment, I listen to the receptionist telling her friend that she enjoys working at the agency, but she has got to cut down on her hours because otherwise she will never finish her script. Everyone in Hollywood is at it.

The agent is surprisingly positive about *Corridors*. No doubt he is impressed with my list of meetings, which includes the vice-president of production at Warner's, the director of production at Twentieth Century Fox and Lisa Henson (daughter of Jim of *Muppet* fame), who has just set up a production company under the wing of the Sony Corporation. The agent blinds me with figures. This is a \$25 million movie, he proclaims; he cannot see it being made for less. I nod sagely.

He likes the setting — Helsinki is exotic to an American audience. If somebody signed me up, I would be looking at \$150,000 straight up, with the same again if and when it is made. Considering that as a playwright in London I do not expect more than £5,000 maximum for a play (usually less), \$150,000 seems

rather appealing. But calculate it as a proportion of \$25 million, though, and you start to understand just how this status-obsessed industry rates writers.

The distinguished screenwriter Naomi Foner (*Running on Empty* with River Phoenix, *A Dangerous Woman* with Debra Winger) takes me out to lunch, tells me a joke. "Did you hear the one about the dumb actor?" she says. "He thought he could advance his career by sleeping with the screenwriter." She puts it down to the fact that movies started out silent, and words were only added as an afterthought. John Sayles likens the studios' treatment of writers to football clubs. Once they own the story, they can try any formation they like. If every movie that hit the screens was written by only one person, 80 per cent of

One morning at breakfast, I found myself sitting at the next table to Steven Spielberg, who was being pitched to by a British director. The creator of *ET* (Melissa Mathison wrote the screenplay, but how many people remember that?) was relaxed and easy, and the idea sounded strong, but the Brit was struggling, intimidated no doubt by the rare chance to have Mr S's undivided attention for all of 40 minutes. We Brits are not comfortable reducing complex ideas to a few sentences.

But to pursue our dreams, we all come West. You cannot go any further West than LA, and so the fantasies pile up high and fast. The studio lots are the home of these dreams, and it is thrilling to have meetings there. To get to the executives' offices at Twentieth Century Fox, I walk past graffiti, run-down street scenes where they are shooting *NYPD Blue*. The Sony lot is the old MGM site, and to get to Lisa Henson I walk past the huge old hangars where Judy Garland first sang *Over the Rainbow*, and imagine Humphrey Bogart stubbing out his cigarette on the Tarmac under my feet.

But what is the reality? It seems that British writers have a particular prestige in Hollywood. Hossein Amini, who wrote the screenplay for *Jude*, is considered "hot". Christopher Hampton's name is on everybody's lips, now that his adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent* is in the cinemas. And of course the *Trainspotting*/Shallow Grave triumvirate of John Hodge, Danny Boyle and Andrew Macdonald are taken very seriously indeed.

It is not just blockbusters being made. The independent film industry is thriving at the moment, even in Hollywood, and various subdivisions of the larger studios are interested in younger, more esoteric and even European talent.

As for me, I get a variety of responses. One exec tells me that I should rework *Corridors* to be able to entice a really big name into the main part — Jodie Foster, say, or Sharon Stone? Another advises me to build up some experience in England before taking on Hollywood. Yet another expertly terminates the meeting within 15 minutes. But overall, the message is positive. "There's no shortage of money, but it's still hard to find talented writers, even in this city," I was told. "Just persist. You'll end up working here." As I wait at LA airport for my plane home, I watch the sun setting over the Pacific and wonder if this could be the start of a beautiful relationship — or if I am just California dreaming.

The agent proclaims that this will make a \$25 million blockbuster — at least?

screenwriters in Hollywood would be out of work.

In fact, it is safer to have a high execution idea than a high concept one. Once the studio has bought the concept, they can get any old hack in to write it, but a high execution writer cannot be separated from his or her high execution idea. The problem is that Hollywood does not deal in written treatments, it deals in verbal pitches, as immortalised in *The Player*. Writers practise their pitches for a couple of months before a meeting with a studio exec. They practise on all their friends, their family, their colleagues, even the waiters in the diners (who are all screenwriters anyway), and hone them according to the response they get. "If you can't enthuse me with an idea in a couple of sentences, how am I going to sell it to the American public?" one exec said to me.

I have decided not to pitch my story to anyone. Having won the competition, I am in the enviable position that they have all read my treatment. So I shall make contacts, get feedback and then send them the highly executed screenplay when it is written. I have witnessed a few pitches, and know that I could not do *Corridors* any justice.

CLASSICAL CHOICE
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

A TOSCANINI SURVEY
Reviewed by Robert Philip

Although Arturo Toscanini ended his conducting career more than 40 years ago, there are more than 100 of his recordings still available. Most of them are in RCA's *Toscanini Collection*, and the great majority of these are from the 1940s and early 1950s, with the NBC Symphony Orchestra. But a number of other recordings, many of them live, are available on other labels.

There are three areas of repertoire for which he was particularly noted: Beethoven, French music, and his first love, Italian opera. Toscanini had a reputation only what was written. This was not literally true, but he does have a very direct, vigorous approach to tempo and rhythm which works best in those symphonies in which Beethoven is himself at his most direct — Nos 3, 5, and 7.

The finest performance of the *Eroica*, with an intense funeral march, is from his 1939 cycle (RCA GD 60269). His 1952 recording of No 5 is very satisfying (RCA GD 60255), but there is a slower, equally good, performance from 1933. This is in a three-disc set of recordings from Toscanini's years with the New York Philharmonic (Pearl GEMMCD5 9373).

There are specific composers who benefit from Toscanini's kind of intensity. One of



them is César Franck, whose symphony receives a very urgent performance (Dell'Arte CD DA 9021).

His recordings of Debussy with the NBC Orchestra can seem rather too clear and clinical, but with the Philadelphia Orchestra in 1941 *Iberia* and *La Mer* are wonderfully sensuous and atmospheric (RCA GD 60311). And with the same orchestra he gives a passionate performance of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique Symphony* (RCA GD 60312).

But it is in Italian opera that Toscanini excels, notably Verdi's *Falstaff*, in which he is alert to every detail (RCA GD 60251). Best of all are two operas with which he was particularly associated: Verdi's *Otello*, in whose premiere he played the cello (RCA GD 60302), and Puccini's *La Bohème*, whose premiere he conducted under the supervision of the composer in 1896 (RCA GD 60288 E18.99).

I can think of no finer Christmas present in the opera's centenary year than this set, conducted by the 79-year-old Toscanini in 1946.

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Building a Library returns to Radio 3 (4pm) on Saturday, December 28, with Mahler's *Symphony No 7*

CHRISTMAS SHOWS: Jolly Vivian Ellis revival; two famous tales reworked

Old-fashioned orphan values

Vivian Ellis is the kind of show you would expect to find in the attic, sandwiched between an old copy of *Peter Pan* and Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons*. Dusted down and lovingly resurrected by Dan

Listen to the Wind
King's Head, NI

Crawford, this quaint 42-year-old fantasy will always smell of mothballs, however many new songs Ellis might have composed for this production. Having come to live with their grandmother, three orphans — the mischievous Jeremy and Harriet, and their slightly stuck-up cousin Emma — join forces when adventure beckons in the shape of a magic music box. "You know, Emma, you're really not a bad sort," pronounces Ben McCosker's Jeremy after the children cleverly and skilfully sing of their

BOTH *The Wizard of Oz* and *Peter Pan* are derived from books, although *The Wizard* (Polka Theatre, Wimbledon) comes to us by way of the MGM film which added the conservative philosophy that East, West, the old backyard's best. Polka's lively production is by Roman Stefanski, who played the Scarecrow here four years ago. The action moves swiftly forward, the familiar songs are pleasingly sung, and details are imaginative, funny or both. I liked the use of Remembrance Day poppies to provide the pattern on Dorothy's curtains, and the image of the house caught up in the cyclone — a model whirling at the end of a pole with the lights low — is excellent.

Muppet-like puppets bobbing about in the scenery make the Munchkin scene, often an embarrassment, an amusing preliminary to the Oz adventures, and the



Paula Wilcox and Michael Gwyngell in *Listen to the Wind*

differences in *When I Grow Up*. "Well, I'm trying to be," says Vicki Taylor's Emma. The arrival of Cameron Blakey's deliciously malevolent accountant, Pearson, threatening Gran with penury and the children with the workhouse, raises the melodramatic stakes. With the help of a friendly but haphazard

Galebird (James Powell), the children seek out the Four Winds to blow them some luck. Cue the heavily reprised *Listen to the Wind*. But our heroes run into a couple of pirates, Scurvy and Ricket, who bring them to Black Thunder Cloud (Pearson, of course) who needs their music box to rule the world...

sending them flying through windows. Since the one thing that children know about *Peter Pan* is that he flies, it was disappointing that the video insert Dillys Hamlet wanted to use in her production failed to work at the performance I saw. Samantha Seager's Peter wears a reversed baseball cap, which would have given J.M. Barrie an attack of the vapours, but it's modern boyish after all. Still, it hardly chimes with the parental prayer, famously Edwardian, uttered before the flight on the ship: "We hope our sons will be like English gentlemen!" This is a production for the youngest children, who singled out for praise, as do I, Christopher Holt's dandy wish, as Hook, that he could fly, and his tippytoe attempts to do so.

Out at Bagnor the Watermill has no facilities for lifting actors off beds and

Special, affecting

In a second half stuffed with 14 songs, it is inevitable that the comic numbers prove the most effective scene-stealers. Blakey's dyspeptic Black Thunder Cloud naturally leads the way with his wonderfully titled lightning bolt song, *Crash, Bang, Pop!* Meanwhile, Paula Wilcox's drah governess, Miss Lush, is comically transformed into an East End mermaid with "fabulous gills". To her falls the responsibility of rescuing the children, but not before we get several rattle-raising renditions of *I Used to Rock*.

Ultimately, *Listen to the Wind* is always going to be more remarkable for the gusto with which it is performed than the originality of its plot or songs. Accompanied by Michael Lavine on the piano, the latter are, however, delivered with a heart and humour that should see Crawford's show comfortably through the new year.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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JEREMY KINGSTON

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Give charity



LAW

● NEXT WEEK: A LOOK BACK AT 1996

Give charities a chance

Restrictions on charities need reviewing.
Alison Dunn
explains why

The Christmas season traditionally raises the profile of charities in the public arena, from the sale of charity Christmas cards to carol concerts and to more specific seasonal fund-raising appeals.

But the activities of charities are not confined to Christmas, nor to doling out advent alms. Many charities are keen to sustain their profile in the public arena throughout the year, and to seek actively — through political channels — to tackle the cause of their beneficiaries' needs.

But to what extent can charities legally become political lobbyists, pursuing political activities? The situation is unclear, as was recently highlighted when the Prime Minister expressed concern over the involvement of charities in Real World, a coalition of aid, environmental and social justice groups.

In a letter to Save the Children, John Major accused the fund of signing up to a "largely political statement of objectives and policy proposals". His comments were prompted by Real World's Action Programme for Government, which advocates a £1 billion annual programme of public spending on housing, community projects and overseas aid, an "integrated transport programme", green energy and environmental policies, and a Bill of Rights.

But both Chris Smith, for Labour and Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, have welcomed the coalition agenda, and the Charity Commissioners have declared themselves satisfied that the charity members of the coalition have not overstepped the boundaries.

This focus on the legality of charities pursuing political objectives highlights the need for clarification in charity law, especially at a time of both regulation of the voluntary sector and pre-election political manoeuvring.

Under the law, charities are prohibited from engaging primarily in a political purpose. The rationale for this prohibition is that a political purpose fails to comply with the requirement of public benefit. The prohibition has some cogent reasons for denying charities the opportunity to take a primary role in the



Private giving to make up shortfalls: Is there a danger that charities will find their role too proscribed?

political arena, including the fact that the law ensures donor trust and prevents extreme political groups from gaining legitimacy under the guise of charitable status. It also prevents generous tax advantages being used in questionable political campaigns.

But even if political aims are not being recognised as charitable purposes, charities are nevertheless permitted to undertake a limited degree of political activity. Under the present law, charities may not be political organisations, nor show outright support for a particular political party, but they may nonetheless be involved in political activities, where such activities are ancillary to and in furtherance of the charity's overall charitable purpose.

The caveat clearly leaves room for charities to manoeuvre within the political arena and enables them to bring their experience of government policy to bear on the decision-making process. But the caveat also leaves room for widespread uncertainty over

the boundary of an ancillary political activity. Confusion is compounded by the fact that case law is vague as to acceptable and unacceptable conduct by charities. The Charity Commission has gone some way to rectify this lack of clarity by issuing guidelines on the involvement of charities in the political sphere. These guidelines, although not law in themselves, provide solid markers for trustees concerned to stay within the parameters of the law. The guidelines cover a range of situations straddling the sphere of political activity and political campaigning, and provide advice on influencing public opinion, supporting or opposing legislation, commenting on public issues and outlining the penalties for unacceptable political conduct by a charity.

The guidelines are valuable as indicators of acceptable conduct. But they do not remedy the underlying, and undermining, uncertainty of charity law. In a practical context, it remains difficult to distinguish between a political purpose and a political activity ancillary to a charitable purpose.

Even the Charity Commission acknowledges that "the dividing line between proper debate in the public arena and improper political activity is a difficult one to judge". That charities remain uncertain is evident from the recent *Report of the Commission on the Future of the Voluntary Sector*. This report admitted that the extent to which charities may contribute to the political arena had been "a frequent issue in the evidence submitted to the Commission".

This lack of clarity in the law is potentially harmful to the wider role that charities play in society. Certainly, explicit rules regarding acceptable political activities in guidelines such as those published by the Charity Commission, or via legislation, would be resisted by many.

the ability to assess directly the effectiveness of current Government policy or legislation on important issues such as poverty, education and health.

Yet in the climate of uncertainty which presently exists in charity law as to acceptable behaviour, the threat of penalties for unlawful political activity will tend to stifle participation in the political arena. Ultimately, this precludes the law's developing in a positive way, and may confine charities to a seasonal role.

● The author is lecturer in law, Newcastle Law School, University of Newcastle Upon Tyne.

6 Legislation might lay down inflexible rules?

Mandelson surprised

THE controversial MP, Peter Mandelson, the guest speaker at the Society of Labour Lawyers annual general meeting last week, was taken aback by the warm welcome from the group's chairman, James Goudie, QC. "I must say that that is the most neutral introduction I have had for a very long time," Labour's campaign co-ordinator quipped.

Before long, he was on more familiar ground, when he was forced to defend Jack Straw against complaints that the Shadow Home Secretary was concentrating his resources on being tough on crime, at the expense of Tony Blair's pledge "to be tough on the causes of crime".

Video request

THE Bar Council is to issue new guidelines to barristers on the measures they should take to ensure any child video evidence they are holding is locked away. The move follows an approach by the CPS, which asked the Bar Council to introduce new rules to protect such videos from getting in the wrong hands. There is concern that evi-

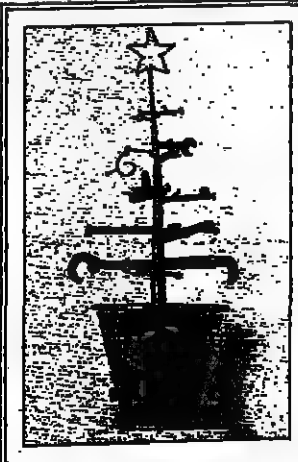
dence in child abuse cases is being circulated within prisons, although the Criminal Bar Association has emphasised that there is no evidence that barristers have been involved in breaches of security.

More than equal

MANY PEOPLE have been impressed by the Bar Council's drive to stamp out discrimination at the Bar, represented by an equality code issued to chambers earlier this year. Now there are signs that

it is moving on to the offensive by encouraging elements of positive discrimination.

Evidence comes from December's *Bar News*, the Bar Council's bulletin, in an item urging unsuccessful applicants for Assistant Recordships to be patient if they want to find out why they have been rejected. The item adds: "Their current exercise is so woman-intensive, the Lord Chancellor's department is not going to have the human resources to deal with the unsuccessful until the new year."



The art of Christmas

COLLYER-BRISTOW has commissioned a young contemporary artist to produce an alternative Christmas tree once again. The tree, by Mick Kirby Geddes, a Yorkshire sculptor, is made from welded scrap metal and is on display at the law firm's high-quality art gallery at its Holborn premises.

Editor quits

AFTER five years as Editor of *Solicitors Journal*, where she rose to the position of publishing director at *FT Law & Tax*, Marie Staunton is returning to the voluntary sector to take a position with Unicef.

Chris Stibbs, *FT Law & Tax*'s managing director, says: "Marie has played an integral part in our development over the past five years and will be missed by her colleagues."

● JUDGES are working even harder than everybody thought. Several circuit judges have pointed out that they do not sit 200 days a year. They have a duty to sit for no fewer than 210 days — which in practice, they say, means many more.

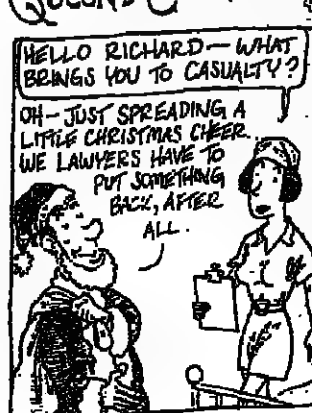
Mears News

APART FROM producing a succession of pithy media fact sheets criticising the policies of Tony Blair, the Law Society President, Martin Mears, Mr Girling's controversial predecessor, has lately been adopting a relatively low profile. Behind the scenes, however, he has been busy putting together his own national news magazine, to be published soon.

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An inspector calls

Sir Edward Coke wrote in his *Institutes of the Laws of England* in 1628 that "a man's house is his castle". Exceptions authorised by Parliament in recent decades have left the castle far from impregnable to officials. But our legal system has required necessary safeguards to protect privacy. It has shared the emotion expressed by Lord Chief Justice Pratt in 1763: "to enter a man's house by virtue of a nameless warrant in order to procure evidence is worse than the Spanish Inquisition". Clause 89 of the Police Bill, now being considered by Parliament, is a threat to the principles of our unwritten constitution.

If enacted, it would confer extensive powers on the police to bug, enter and search premises. Entry on, or interference with, property or with wireless telegraphy would be lawful if authorised by a Chief Constable (or other relevant person) who thinks it could be of substantial value in the prevention or detection of serious crime, and if the action achieves what cannot reasonably be done by other means.

"Serious crime" is very broadly defined by Clause 89 to mean any crime involving the use of violence, or resulting in substantial financial gain, or conduct by a large number of people in pursuit of a common purpose, or an offence for which a person would be sent to prison for three years or more. It is therefore particularly important to ensure that there are proper safeguards to protect individual rights. The committee stage debate in the House of Lords at the end of last month shows that there are two fundamental objections to the drafting of Clause 89 which the Government needs to address.

The first concern is that the intrusive action on private property does not need to be authorised by a judge, but can be decided upon by the police alone. As Lord Browne-Wilkinson pointed out during the debate, until now "the only right enjoyed by the State to invade property is under the warrant of a court" (with the exception of action by the security services). In other Commonwealth countries, a prior judicial warrant is recognised to be an indispensable safeguard of individual rights and a necessary check on abuse of power. The Government's explanation for adopting a different approach in the Police Bill is that this is "peculiarly an operational matter", and that to involve the judiciary "would be perceived to be a threat to the traditional impartiality of judges, placing them too firmly in the law-enforcement camp".

This will surprise judges and magistrates, who already have responsibility for granting,

or refusing, search warrants, and who frequently take decisions relating to police conduct, such as deciding on the admissibility of evidence, without anyone seriously suggesting that this undermines their independence. Indeed, a primary function of an impartial judiciary is to ensure that broad powers which impede on fundamental liberties are not abused, however "operational" they may be. The second defect in Clause 89 is that it recognises no exception for legal professional privilege. It is a basic principle of English law that people should be able to consult their lawyers in confidence, knowing that what they say will not be disclosed without their consent.

As Lord Taylor of Gosforth explained in a House of Lords judgment in 1995, this is "a fundamental condition on which the administration of justice as a whole rests". If people fear that their conversations may be bugged by the police, they are not going to tell the whole story, and so they are not going to get proper advice, when they visit their solicitor's office or their barrister's chambers.

The Government has two unconvincing reasons for refusing to include an exception in Clause 89 for lawyers' premises. First, it says that this "would alert criminals to the sole purpose of furthering their illegal activities and frustrating the purpose of the Bill". The short answer is that there is no professional privilege if there is a conspiracy between lawyer and client to do more than give and receive legal advice. Secondly, the Government says that Chief Constables can be trusted to use their powers wisely. But if Parliament does not intend to authorise objectionable conduct, it should say so, in order to prevent future abuse of power.

To combat serious crime, the police may well need new powers. But such powers must be subject to necessary safeguards. If Clause 89 were to be enacted in its current form, the absence of judicial control and the frustration of professional privilege would lead to inevitable condemnation by the European Court of Human Rights.

All judges should make plain to the Government that they reject the suggestion that their impartiality would be threatened if prior judicial authorisation were required. And all barristers and solicitors should express their disgust at the suggestion that Parliament may authorise the bugging of their premises while they are giving legal advice to clients.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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Cowboys shrug off scandal to shoot for Super Bowl

JUST as tough and about half as endearing, Dallas Cowboys are starting to resemble American football's version of *The Terminator*. Knocked down and dragged through the grinder, disabled temporarily when vital parts are ripped off, the good guys persist in thinking Dallas are down and out. Yet they keep coming back.

On Sunday, the Cowboys shrugged off the latest scandal to blight their angst-laden year, the suspension of Leon Lett for drug abuse, to beat the much-admired New England Patriots 12-6 in Texas, win their fifth National Football Conference (NFC) eastern division title in succession and qualify for the play-offs.

Despite the loss of Lett, one of the best tacklers in the sport, the Cowboys allowed the most productive offence in the National Football League (NFL) only two field goals. They will have to win on the road if they are to reach a second successive Super Bowl at the end of January, but now that the competition is reaching its knock-out stage, few will bet against them.

Even the Cowboys, though, might struggle in Green Bay in the middle of January and the Packers moved one step closer to clinching home-field advantage in the NFC throughout the play-offs on Sunday when they trounced Detroit Lions 31-3 at the Pontiac Silverdome, courtesy of a 92-yard punt return by Desmond Howard and more inspired passing from their quarterback Brett Favre.

If the Packers slip up against Minnesota next week, then home advantage could pass to either San Francisco 49ers or Carolina Panthers, the surprise team of the year. Both had convincing wins at the weekend.

The Panthers, in only their second year in the NFL, capitalised on their thrilling victory over the 49ers in San Francisco ten days ago with a 27-16 win over Baltimore Ravens in Charlotte to take their



Bam Morris, the Baltimore running back, ploughs into a Carolina roadblock

RESULTS: Philadelphia 21 New York Jets		Western divisions	
20:	Chicago 27 San Diego 14; Carolina 27 Baltimore 16; Detroit 30 Kansas City 31; Dallas 27 Cincinnati 8; New England 27 Cleveland 10	1 Denver	13 2 0 0 381
21:	San Francisco 27 Tampa Bay 10; New York Giants 3 Atlanta 27 St. Louis 34; Philadelphia 21 New York Jets 21; Pittsburgh 27 Tampa Bay 10; Arizona 27 Washington 28; Tampa Bay 20 Oakland 16; Cincinnati 21 Houston 24 Indianapolis 24 Kansas City 27	2 Kansas City	7 6 0 0 280
FOOTBALL: Saturday: New York Giants v New England; St. Louis v New Orleans. Sunday: Dallas v New York Jets; Pittsburgh v Atlanta; Tampa Bay v Chicago; New York Jets v New York Giants; New York Giants v Buffalo; Kansas City v New York Jets; Miami, Green Bay v Minnesota; Carolina v Seattle; Washington v Cleveland; Pittsburgh v Seattle; San Diego v Denver; Monteray, San Francisco v Detroit.		3 Oakland	7 6 0 0 280
National Conferences		4 San Diego	7 6 0 0 280
Eastern division		5 Seattle	7 6 0 0 280
W L T		6 Dallas	10 1 0 0 376
1 Dallas	10 1 0 0 376	7 Philadelphia	10 1 0 0 376
2 Philadelphia	10 1 0 0 376	8 Washington	8 7 0 0 302
3 Pittsburgh	8 7 0 0 302	9 Arizona	8 7 0 0 302
4 Washington	8 7 0 0 302	10 New York Jets	6 9 0 0 220
5 Arizona	8 7 0 0 302	Central division	
6 New York Jets	6 9 0 0 220	1 Green Bay	12 3 0 0 418
Western division		2 Minnesota	9 6 0 0 324
1 Green Bay	12 3 0 0 418	3 Chicago	7 10 0 0 274
2 Minnesota	9 6 0 0 324	4 Denver	7 10 0 0 274
3 Chicago	7 10 0 0 274	5 Tampa Bay	9 7 0 0 317
4 Denver	7 10 0 0 274	Western division	
5 Tampa Bay	9 7 0 0 317	1 Carolina	11 4 0 0 349
W L T		2 St. Paul	11 4 0 0 349
1 Carolina	11 4 0 0 349	3 St. Louis	10 5 0 0 339
2 St. Paul	11 4 0 0 349	4 Atlanta	10 5 0 0 339
3 St. Louis	10 5 0 0 339	5 New Orleans	9 12 0 0 248
4 Atlanta	10 5 0 0 339	1st seeded division still secured play-off place	
5 New Orleans	9 12 0 0 248	2nd seeded division still secured play-off place	
Central division		Not including last night's match, Miami v Buffalo	
1 Pittsburgh	10 7 0 0 308 239		
2 Jacksonville	10 7 0 0 308 218		
3 Cincinnati	10 8 0 0 341 345		
4 Miami	10 8 0 0 341 345		
5 Baltimore	4 11 0 0 320 417		

ATHLETICS

HORTHWA: Open London making: Men's 5000m (Glasgow) James Smith, 19.55; Women's 5000m (Glasgow) Margaret G. G.

CANADA CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 10000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 20000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 40000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 80000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 320000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 640000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1280000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2560000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5120000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 10240000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 20480000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 40960000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 81920000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 163840000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 327680000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 655360000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1310720000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2621440000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5242880000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 10485760000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 20971520000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 41943040000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 83886080000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 167772160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 335544320000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 671088640000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1342177280000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2684354560000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5368709120000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 10737418240000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 21474836480000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 42949672960000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 85899345920000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 171798691840000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 343597383680000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 687194767360000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1374389534720000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2748779069440000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5497558138880000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 10995116277760000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 21990232555520000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 43980465111040000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 87960930222080000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 175921860444160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 351843720888320000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 703687441776640000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1407374883553280000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2814749767106560000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5629499534213120000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 11258999068426240000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 22517998136852480000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 45035996273704960000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 90071992547409920000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 180143985094819840000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 360287970189639680000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 720575940379279360000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1441151880758558720000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2882303761517117440000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5764607523034234880000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 11529215046068469760000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 23058430092136939520000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 46116860184273879040000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 92233720368547758080000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 184467440737095516160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 368934881474191032320000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 737869762948382064640000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1475739525896764129280000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 2951479051793528258560000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 5902958103587056517120000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 11805916207174113034240000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 23611832414348226068480000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 47223664828696452136960000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 94447329657392904273920000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 188894659314785808547840000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 377789318629571617095680000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 755578637259143234191360000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1511157274518286468382720000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 3022314549036572936765440000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 6044629098073145873530880000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 12089258196146291747061760000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 24178516392292583494123520000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 48357032784585166988247040000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 96714065569170333976494080000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 193428131138340667952988160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 386856262276681335905976320000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 773712524553362671811952640000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1547425049106725343623905280000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 3094850098213450687247810560000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 6189700196426901374495621120000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 12379400392853802748991242240000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 24758800785707605497982484480000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 49517601571415210995964968960000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 99035203142830421991929937920000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 198070406285660843983859875840000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 396140812571321687967719751680000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 792281625142643375935439503360000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 1584563250285286751870879006720000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 3169126500570573503741758013440000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 6338253001141147007483516026880000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 12676506002282294014967032053760000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 25353012004564588029934064107520000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 50706024009129176059868128215040000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 101412048018258352119736256430080000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 202824096036516704239472512860160000m (Edmonton) 1st, 19.55; 405648192073033408478945025720320000m (

FOOTBALL

*Mid-Off 7.30 unless stated**

F.A Cup

Sunderland v Arsenal (7.45)
Barnley v Watford (7.45)
Peterborough v Everton (7.45)
Southampton v Wrexham (7.45)
Wycombe v Barnet (7.45)

[illegible]

SUPERSPORT SERIES (final day of four):
 Kimberley: Free State 40-0, Griqualand West
 34-0 and 222-61 (1) Gidley 76 not out, Watch
 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100
 and 27-23 (2) Easton (Power 26) and 185 (1)
 J Koen 75, C E Bricean 4-74, Timpseil w/o
 by 100 runs.

UNDER-19 TOUR MATCH: Lahore (final

[illegible][illegible]

2. Toronto 1; Philadelphia 6 Boston 0.

[illegible][illegible]

LYNDY IN NEWBURY (7.15)
HART GIMMORE FOUR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS
Lyndy in Newbury (at Ludlow, 7.30).

OTHER SPORT
BLOODS: Commonwealth Championships
championed by Jo Linn (England),
winner of Rick Ryan (Australia). Light-
middleweight Anton Dossan (Belgium) v
Del Ryan (Nottingham) (at Doncaster).

ST GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Distance to
Wellington, 10,000m, 10.15. 1, 10.03.47
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The Children 2.05.0. 5, Global Telecom
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FOOTBALL: KLINSMANN MAY FOLLOW ERIKSSON TO EWOOD PARK

Revolutionary ready to march on Ribble Valley

When a man has lived for 15 years in Mediterranean climes and has helped the wealthy club owners of Lisbon, Rome, Florence and Genoa to spend their millions, what on earth could be the charms of an old Lancastrian cotton town such as Blackburn?

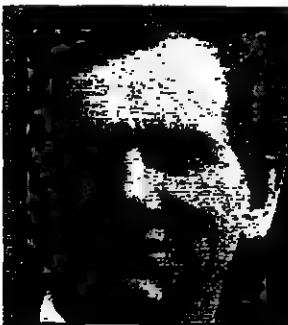
The confirmation yesterday morning that Blackburn Rovers will indeed have Sven Goran Eriksson to manage their team from the end of this season, or before, was followed last night by speculation that he might hire Jürgen Klinsmann, of Bayern Munich, to assist him on the field in reclaiming the glories that Jack Walker's millions brought to Ewood Park.

Klinsmann, so swiftly back from Lisbon himself after Germany had drawn 0-0 there in a World Cup qualifying game on Saturday, has repeated in public his growing despair with Germany's leading club.

He and Giovanni Trapattoni, the Italian who coaches Bayern, do not speak the same sporting language: Klinsmann is bred on attack, Trapattoni is a thoroughbred of defence. Given that Blackburn have announced that more of Walker's money will be spent in anticipation of Eriksson's arrival, the club would do well to review a tape of Germany's visit to the Stadium of Light.

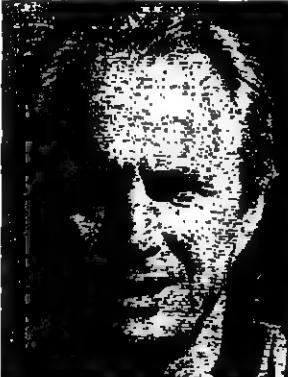
Klinsmann looked tired and relied on his young partner, Fredi Bobic, to do most of his

ROB HUGHES



Overseas View

running. Nottingham Forest have reportedly been working on a £30,000-per-week offer to the Germany captain. Everton are also more than interested. British spectators enjoyed his company once and, at 32,



Eriksson in control

may relish his return. Meanwhile, Eriksson is on his way: only the timing of his release, at the behest of Sampdoria, his Genoa club, is to be determined.

Eriksson is possibly aware of the serenity of the Ribble Valley that surrounds Blackburn. Or there may be other enticements to a man already wealthy through his travels in coaching. Maybe the phrase "where there's muck there's brass" appeals to this Swede whose English is perfect. Or maybe it is the challenge of helping English football to come out of the dark ages, the challenge that has already brought Ruud Geulink and Arsène Wenger to London.

Three foreigners here to coach. Their task abroad was, as Eriksson often said, to coax "commitment" into technically gifted individuals. Here, indubitably, commitment exists in extremis. It is the knowledge of footballers on the continent, the ability to buy players who should be beacons of light to native, physically-inclined workers, that puts these newcomers in the millionaire pay bracket.

Eriksson comes highly recommended by David Platt, who, incidentally, is trying to rediscover his form under Wenger at Arsenal. "I thought Eriksson was absolutely superb," Platt said of his time as a Sampdoria player. "Win, lose or draw, he would shake every player's hand: he had respect for the players, the way he got his ideas across. He was

always in control." Such words are not echoed in Italy, not after his time in charge at AS Roma, where he left under the cloud of insinuations that players were not motivated by him, that they were not giving their best.

However, there are similarities between Eriksson, of Blackburn, and Wenger, of Arsenal. Each turned to training players in their twenties, realising that they were educators rather than spectacular performers. Eriksson had been a defender or wing half in Swedish semi-professional football, but quickly coached IFK Gothenburg to the championship of his homeland and to the Uefa Cup. Abruptly, he took up the first of two spells at Benfica and, in 1992, during his second spell there, helped eliminate an expose Arsenal in the European Cup.

Like Wenger, he was sought by an English club while still abroad and still under contract. Like Wenger, he dealt with the public knowledge of his impending defection ably and with a considerable grasp of public relations.

Meanwhile, committed as he is to Sampdoria, he enjoyed a breathtaking victory on the eve of Blackburn's admission that his future was theirs. At the San Siro, Sampdoria came from 3-1 down to beat Internazionale 4-3. That provoked howls of abuse, the hurrying of obscenities and stones in the direction of Roy Hodgson, Inter's English coach, who turned down an offer from Blackburn before Walker's men turned to Eriksson.

It will not be easy for Eriksson to change the physical ways, or the present struggles, of Blackburn, nor does he venture into England with quite the acceptance that was already his when Italy called. Eriksson, should he succeed in this island, will be the first Swede since the Vikings to do so.

George Weah, the Fifa World Footballer of the Year, was given a six-match ban by Uefa, European football's governing body, yesterday for headbutting Jorge Costa, of FC Porto, in AC Milan's European Cup Champions' League match last month.



Facing up to the disappointment of not winning the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award on Sunday night was made easier for Steven Redgrave, right, yesterday, when he was presented with the Sports Writers' Association's award for Sportsman of the Year. The veteran oarsman, who won

his fourth Olympic gold medal in Atlanta in the summer, could have been forgiven for seeing double by the end of the ceremony, when, just as at the BBC event, he was named in the Team of the Year with Matthew Pinsent. Left, his colleague in the coxed pairs.

RUGBY UNION

Ashton's future in doubt

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

A SMOKESCREEN surrounded last night the immediate future of one of the leading figures at Bath, English rugby union's champion club. A statement appeared to confirm the status of Brian Ashton, the chief coach, yet the very fact that it had to be made cast doubts over his long-term future.

In the week before Bath begin the defence of the Pilkington Cup — against London Irish on Saturday — Ashton is on a week's holiday while John Hall, the director of rugby, would only issue a terse statement confirming that the coach, who was back to coach in England in the mid-1980s, "remains an employee of Bath Rugby Club".

There has been speculation that the relationship between the two men, once that of coach and player, had dwindled now that both are involved in management. "At this moment in time, Bath and I have not parted company," Ashton, who gave up his

teaching career last summer to become a full-time employee of Bath, said. Preparation of the cup side now devolves upon Andy Robinson, the flanker, who is still a member of the playing squad, and John Palmer, the former centre.

It has already been a difficult season for Bath, whose primary ambition — victory in the Heineken Cup — subsided when they lost in the quarter-finals to Cardiff. After three defeats, their league championship is in the balance and the glass was removed from their outstanding display against Harlequins on December 7 by accusations of rowdiness in the city centre the same evening, when police had to be called to a café.

Meanwhile, Newbury must play their postponed fourth-round Pilkington Cup tie with London at Twickenham on Saturday. The winner of which meets Leicester on Saturday. The Rugby Football Union turned down an appeal for a further postponement by

Newbury, nine of whose players have been affected over the last fortnight by a serious bacterial skin infection.

Five of those players have not recovered and Newbury may be forced to field second-choice tight-five forwards. The original postponement from November 23 was because the club's players were required for the RFU divisional programme, while the union's dispute with the leading clubs was at its height.

The Scottish Rugby Union has agreed to play South Africa at Murrayfield next December and will send a party to South Africa this summer. A five-match programme will coincide with the British Isles tour, which will deprive the Scots of leading players, while the South Africans — who left for home yesterday following their successful tour of Argentina, France and Wales — will return to Britain to play England on November 29 and Scotland on December 6.

MCC wins backing for media centre

THE imaginative project at Lord's Nursery End, to be known as the NatWest Media Centre, was given the blessing of MCC members yesterday (Jack Bailey writes).

The overwhelming majority depicted by the overall vote (both postal and at yesterday's special meeting) was 6,993 in favour of the new centre, 1,288 against. At the meeting itself, which lasted 2½ hours, the voting in the hall resulted in approval by 152 votes to 61.

This means that Lord's will have in place by April 1998 a centre capable of housing the world's television, radio and other media well in advance of the World Cup final of 1999.

Durdle door

Ice hockey: Great Britain's prospects of reaching the next stage of the 1998 Winter Olympic Games qualifying process were lifted yesterday when Darren Durdle, the defenceman, was cleared to play in the decisive group game with Switzerland in Sheffield tomorrow.

It was feared Britain could be penalised the two points from the 5-0 victory over Slovenia when Durdle made his debut after questions were asked as to when the Canadian-born player received his British passport.

Splash for cash

Swimming: Britain is demanding that top swimmers be paid to attend the second European short-course championships if the event is to be staged in Sheffield. The city is the only bidder for the 1998 event and, with the Amateur Swimming Association, is insisting that the European Swimming League offer prizes to winners in all 38 events to ensure the best possible entry.

Easy ride

Rugby union: The draw for the sixth round of the Swalec Cup gave Pontypridd, the holders, an easy entry to the competition. They must travel to Felinfoel, the junior West Wales club. There are two all first-division ties, between Newport and Cardiff, and Caerphilly and Llanelli.

DRINK: Wynne v. Annetford v. Theodry; Llanvillina v. Pyle; Pontypridd v. Pencoed; South Wales Police v. Blackwood v. Haverhill; Newcastle Bryn v. Rhydolfa v. Glyn Ceirw; Vireo v. Porthmadog; Pen-y-fryn v. Carmarthen Town; Swansea v. Durdley; Newport v. Cardiff; Walsley v. South Wales v. Abercromby v. Ystradgynlais; Cross Keys v. Cardiff Institute of Sport; Caerphilly v. Llanelli; Neath v. Abercromby; Aberystwyth v. Ebbw Vale; Bridgend v. Newbridge; Felinfoel v. Pontypridd. Time to be played January 25.

Jones fails to see funny side of fine

VINNIE JONES, the Wimbledon midfielder player, has been fined a week's wages by the FA Carling Premiership club after a supposedly humorous newspaper article backfired on Saturday (Russell Kempson writes). Jones has also donated his £2,000 fee for the article, which jokingly assessed the characters of his team-mates, to the players' pool.

Jones missed Wimbledon's 1-0 win against Blackburn Rovers on Saturday. Instead, he played for Wales in their World Cup qualifying match against Turkey in Cardiff, which ended in a goalless

draw. He returned to training yesterday and apologised to his colleagues. "It was meant to be a joke, a Christmassy, pull-your-leg stunt," he said, "but it's gone wrong. I can only say that I am deeply sorry."

Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, declined to comment. At the weekend, when the article appeared, he labelled it "disgusting". Sam Hammam, the Wimbledon owner, said that the club now accepted that Jones intended his comments to be treated light-heartedly. "Wimbledon play with ten men and Vinnie Jones,"

Hammam said. "In many respects, they are ahead of him from a technical and footballing angle. What Vinnie provides is leadership."

The Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) is to hold an inquiry into crowd trouble at the Bristol City v Bristol Rovers Nationwide League second division derby at Ashton Gate on Sunday. Spectators invaded the pitch after Rovers had equalised in injury time and, at the end, several Rovers players had to run for the tunnel to escape pursuing City supporters. The Football Association is launching a separate inquiry.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a £17,200 Toyota Picnic FFV



The Times offers readers the chance to win every family's dream car — the new Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle which will be going on sale in the UK for the first time in January. The six-seater has been designed with the aim of making travelling with children a happier and more comfortable experience for everyone in the car.

While working on the new car's development, Toyota commissioned a report by a leading psychologist to investigate the psychology of family travel. The report identified that although it may not be possible to change children's behaviour on long car journeys, there are certain fundamentals that ensure more peaceful family travel.

The Toyota Picnic Family Fun Vehicle has a list of impressive features including six individual seats, all with 3-point seat belts, giving children their own space to minimise the

risk of irritation. There are a total of 17 different seat combinations and a power outlet in the rear — essential for the children's personal stereos on long car journeys. Safety features include dual air bags, side impact beams, crumple zones and an impact energy absorbing body frame structure.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win this superb vehicle, collect four differently numbered tokens from the seven appearing in *The Times* between December 14-21, 1996. Post them with the completed entry form to: The Times/Toyota Picnic Competition, Ashentree Court, London EC88 8NG. The closing date is first post Friday January 17, 1997.

THE TIMES
TOYOTA
picnic
TOKEN 3

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1. The car to be won is the Picnic GL (interior) and cannot be exchanged for a different model or cash alternative. 2. The car will be presented ready to drive, except for petrol and road tax, which will be the responsibility of the winner. 3. The winner may be required to be photographed for publicity purposes. 4. Acceptance of all the rules is a condition of entry. 5. For the name of the winner, please send a SAE to the address above. 6. The car will be awarded at the winner's nearest Toyota dealership. 7. The competition is open to all Times readers over 17 years of age. 8. The winner will be the person who correctly completes the competition question and who, in the opinion of the independent judges, submits the best SAE. 9. Normal Times Newspaper competition rules apply.

CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
This hand was played by Vittorio di Silvio, of Italy, in the Olympiad Mixed Teams.

Dealer South	Love all	IMP's
♠ 10 7 4 2 ♥ A ♦ K Q J 10 8 ♣ A 10 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	♠ 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♥ K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: King of hearts

South opened One Club and West overcalled One Heart. After a negative double by North, North-South found their way to Six Spades.

How would you set about the contract after winning the ace of hearts? You have three tricks in spades, one in hearts, five in diamonds and one in clubs. That means you need to take two heart ruffs in dummy to make up the twelve tricks. You also have to ensure that you have drawn trumps before you run the diamonds.

In a pairs event, you might play a club to the ace at trick two, ruff a heart, diamond to the ace, ruff a heart, and finally play a spade to the ace and draw trumps. That way you would make thirteen tricks if the spades break 3-2. You will find the 4-1 break makes the hand unmanage-

able on that line of play. At teams scoring you should ensure you make your contract, and Di Silvio solved the problem neatly. At trick two he ducked a spade. He now had three entries to his hand to ruff two hearts, and was still in control to draw all the trumps before running the diamonds.

□ In the US Gold Cup final, held in Peebles at the weekend, Andrew Dyson's team (Glyn Liggins, Peter Crouch, Steve Lodge, Graham Kirby, John Armstrong) beat Andrew Macnair's team (Tim Rees, Graham Horsley, Roger Gibbons, Alan Kay, Jerry Cope) by 157 IMPs to 89.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD MATCHING

FLEMENSFIRTH
a. The North Sea
b. Entertaining an outcast
c. A rout

GROMWELL
a. George Cromwell
b. A breed of pony
c. A medicinal herb

FINGAN
a. A coffee cup
b. To forge a signature
c. A Highland bard

GANTELLAGE
a. A naval crane
b. Wine duty
c. Arable land

Answers on page 38

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Level contest

The elite tournament at Las Palmas continues with an even field. At the halfway stage 50 per cent of the players share first place and only 1½ points divides first from last. In the fifth round Karpov and Kasparov played a quiet draw which enabled Vassily Ivanchuk, the Ukrainian grandmaster, to move into the joint lead.

White: Vassily Ivanchuk
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Las Palmas, December 1996

King's Indian Defence
1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7
4 Bb1 d6
5 Ng2 0-0
6 B3 e5
7 d5 e6
8 Ng3 e6d5
9 cxd5 Nxd7
10 Bx2 a5
11 g4 h5
12 Bg5 Qe6
13 Qd2 Nf7
14 Bh6 Qe6
15 Bg7 Qg7
16 Nf1 e5
17 e5d5 g5d5
18 Nd3 Kf6
19 Nd4 Qf6
20 0-0 Rf6
21 Rf1 b5
22 a5b5 a5b5

23 Nd5	b4
24 Nd5	Ba6
25 Nd7	Bxa6
26 Rxa2	Rg6
27 Nd6	Rf6b
28 Nd6	Ra6
29 Rb1	Ra2
30 Nd4	Qg5
31 Nd4	Qg5
32 Ra6	Nd6
33 Nd7	Rf6a5
34 Ng6+	Black resigns



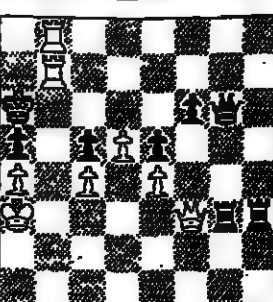
Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in *The Times*, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess every Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

White to play. This position is from the game Volok — Golod, Czech Republic, 1994. White's queen is caught in a pin along the third rank and it looks as if he must settle for a perpetual check draw with his rooks. Can he do any better?



Solution on page 38

Goalkeepers take their chance in the spotlight

Times writers give their Christmas selections of the best in sporting literature in 1996

Goalkeepers take their chance in the spotlight

GHOSTED autobiographies were once the staple dress of sports publishing. "I take 25 days to write a book," one ghost proclaimed proudly. "Ten days taping and then a chapter a day for 14 days." It showed.

Nowadays, football's ghosts are more upmarket. This season's two heavyweight autobiographies, by Kenny Dalglish and Jack Charlton, are ghosted by, respectively, Henry Winter, of *The Daily Telegraph*, and Peter Byrne, of *The Irish Times*, a whimsical stylist.

Yet both have the main problem of ghosts, to retain the flavour of the man. Perhaps surprisingly, Byrne, an Irishman, makes the better fist of it, capturing Charlton's trenchant style. Winter went to school and played football in Scotland, but even that proved little help in recapturing Dalglish's more staccato one-liners on the page.

Between them, though, Dalglish and Charlton have been at the centre of football in the past 30 years and their tales

reflect that. Dalglish writes angrily about Heysel, moving about Hillsborough and openly about the leaving of Liverpool. Charlton, as always, is forced. He is revealing about his relationship with his brother, Bobby, but is perhaps at his best talking about his childhood.

Autobiographies apart, football publishing is thriving. This year, there is perhaps no "great book", such as *Football Against the Enemy*, but there is a wealth of good ones. Managers, chairmen and goalkeepers get a book apiece, of varying quality. The one on chairmen, *Soccer Czars*, talks to the first XI, except Martin Edwards, of Manchester United, and Sir John Hall, of Newcastle United, and gets some fascinating material, but Jason Tomas is too soft on the raging egos on view. George Silk, a psychologist, also has some interesting interviews, but he does not get to Alex Ferguson, Dalglish, George Graham, Kevin Keegan or Roy Evans, which undermines his book, *I Think I'll Manage*.



Dalglish: heavyweight

Fortunately, the eccentric selections in the *Dream Team* series never have to play, but they make great interviews, particularly Jim White's *Always in the Running*, on Manchester United. White is a good interviewer and a beguiling writer, but what can you do with someone who selects Willie Morgan as a wing back and says that the manager who gave Neil Ruddock an England cap is a great judge of a player?

Jeremy Novick, the author of *Winning Their Spurs* in the same series, would never make that mistake about Terry Venables. His book, with its preponderance of early Eighties players, might be better titled *The Nearly Team*, as opposed to Alex Fynn's tome, *Dream On*, on Tottenham last season. Informative, but I preferred the story of football on the breadline, Derrick Allsop's tale of Rochdale's season, *Kicking in the Wind*.

However, for Tottenham supporters, there is outstanding nostalgia, the story of perhaps the greatest ever English club side, Danny Blanchflower's double-winners. Of the other excellent offerings, *Warrior Wanderers*, the story of the Bolton team that joined up en masse and fought the war (1939-45 that is) together, and *Bogota Bandit*, the story of Charlie Mitten's trip to play in Colombia, also tap into football's new and delightful nostalgia market.

In the end, the book of the year is Nick Hazlewood's study of a strange breed, the goalkeeper. It is thin on the greats, but, from nightmares to betting scams, from Willie Foulke to René Higuita, it is riveting reading.

□ *In the Way - Goalkeepers: A Breed Apart*, by Nick Hazlewood (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Bogota Bandit - The Outlaw Life of Charlie Mitten*, by Nick Hazlewood (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Warrior Wanderers - A Football Team at War*, by Tim Purcell and Mike Gething (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *The Double*, by Ken Ferris (Two Heads Publishing, £9.99).

□ *Kicking in the Wind*, by Derrick Allsop (Headline, £14.99).

□ *Jack Charlton: The autobiography*, with Peter Byrne (Partridge Press, £16.99).

□ *Dalglish: My Autobiography*, with Henry Winter (Hodder & Stoughton, £16.99).

□ *Soccer Czars*, by Jason Tomas (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *I Think I'll Manage*, by George Silk (Headline, £15.99).

□ *Dream On*, by Alex Fynn and H. Davidson (Simon & Schuster, £14.99).

□ *Always in the Running* (Dream Team series), by Jim White (Mainstream, £14.99).

□ *Winning their Spurs* (Dream Team series), by Jeremy Novick (Mainstream, £14.99).

PETER BALL



Seles tells of her depression and recurring nightmares as she fought her way back to the top after being stabbed

Serving aces en route to a fortune

DURING the festive season, all thoughts of sport and fitness are usually put firmly to one side, but in the annual crop of tennis books, there is enough to keep even the most devout couch potato in touch with the game, even if picking up a racket and playing seems out of the question.

For those whose playing days are a long-distant memory, there is *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*. Now there are people who love Lloyd and people who loathe him, but none can get away from the fact that he is an inveterate enthusiast and workaholic.

The book covers Lloyd's rise from promising junior to reasonable player to multi-millionaire.

Written by Richard Evans, it describes how Lloyd built up his empire of tennis clubs from scratch and eventually sold them to Whitbread for a fortune. In between, it gives the Lloyd view of

business — and how to make it big — of tennis and of life in general. It is worth the read. The British Davis Cup captain — and a chap who owns three Ferraris — is not in the habit of pulling his punches.

Monica Seles also has her own view of the world. Up until 1993, that world consisted of doing everything in her power to be the best tennis player alive. Then, in Hamburg, Günther Parche stopped her in her tracks, stabbing her in the back during a quarter-final match, and consigning her to more than two years in the wilderness as she struggled against the injury, depression and recurring nightmares.

Monica: From Fear to Victory, written with Nancy Ann Richardson, is the account of how Seles came back from that day in Hamburg. It is, at times, a

remarkably self-indulgent tome, but does at least explain why it took Seles so long to come to terms with what had happened and how that battle still affects her.

The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996 also has mention of Seles.

This day-by-day record of the championships is written by John Parsons with pictures from some of the best tennis photographers on the circuit. It is a valuable addition to any tennis buff's shelves.

In the same vein, *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L. Scott, the editor of *Tennis Week*, hopes to provide the same sort of record for all four grand slam events. The book gives an overview of the four big tournaments of the year. It is available at specialist tennis bookshops.

Much as it galls a journalist to say it, a picture can say a

thousand words and for any tennis enthusiast *Visions of Tennis* is a great present.

□ *David Lloyd: How to Succeed in Business While Really Trying*, by Richard Evans (Bloomsbury, £17.99).

□ *Monica: From Fear to Victory*, Monica Seles with Nancy Ann Richardson (Harper Collins, £14.99).

□ *The Official Wimbledon Annual 1996*, by John Parsons (Hazelton, £19.99).

□ *Slam!* compiled by Eugene L. Scott (available from The Tennis Bookshop, West Gate, Moyles Court, Nr Ringwood, Hants, 01425 480518, £35 plus postage and packing).

□ *Visions of Tennis*, produced by Allsport (Quiller Press, £16.95).

ALIX RAMSAY

No passes in volume on specialist knowledge

WHAT a pity that television's *Mastermind* series ends next year and no further applicants will be considered. *Cycling: Facts and Feats* would have been an ideal primer for anyone seeking high points in the specialist subject category.

Jeremy Evans has researched the subject well, laying down a solid foundation in the opening section with a mix of information about the evolution of the bicycle from its beginnings in 1861 and, seven years later, cycle racing, to the present day.

Brevity is the keynote of Evans's style throughout, using a multitude of four or five-liners to present a fascinating history of the fastest, the longest, the highest and other categories.

Some achievements recorded might be considered freakish or unnecessary (in May 1990, a Peter Rosendahl rode a bicycle backwards for 74.75 kilometres in 9hr 25min), but the compiler has done his best to give lightweight information.

The world's three leading Tours — France, Italy and Spain — are well-documented, and there are welcome potted biographies of The Greats, ranging from Marshall "Major" Taylor (born 1878) to the present world champion, and record-holder from Great Britain, Chris Boardman (born 1968).

Also highly readable is William Fotheringham's *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*. The author's canvas is broad and will appeal to all levels of achievement.

□ *Cycling: Facts and Feats*, by Jeremy Evans (Guinness Publishing, £13.99).

□ *Cycle Racing: How to Train, Race and Win*, by William Fotheringham (A & C Black, £13.99).

PETER BRYAN

Watered-down account of poolside dramas

IF YOU want to seek out a sporting fairy-tale, dip into *Gold*, the biography of Michelle Smith — but go cautiously. This is the story of the 26-year-old who made giant strides in Atlanta to become a triple Olympic champion and unleash a tide of jubilation in Ireland that not even Jack Charlton and his lads could have hoped for.

Written by Cathal Dervan, a journalist, in collaboration with Smith, the book offers a romantic view of its subject and her immense progress after her coaching was taken over by the man she was to marry, Eric de Bruin. The Dutch discus thrower became her mentor after the 1992 Olympic Games and was suspended from athletics for four years in 1993 after he tested positive for steroids.

Smith reassesses her oft-quoted view that her success is solely the result of hard work. The book does not deal very much with the drugs controversy in Atlanta or offer evidence to support De

Bruin's contention that he was an innocent victim of drugs testing.

The book alleges that American journalists were alone in questioning how Smith had achieved a progression like no other in the history of her sport. In truth, such issues were raised by swimmers, coaches, medical

experts and journalists from dozens of nations and had been raised long before Atlanta. The question of whether Smith received medical help was put to her forcibly in Atlanta, even though she has never tested positive for drugs.

Dervan's account is watered-down and sickly sweet.

□ *Gold - a triple champion's story*, Michelle Smith, with Cathal Dervan, (Mainstream Publishing Company, £14.99).

CRAIG LORD

Leap into dark side of search for gold

FOR MOST Americans, the defining moment of the Atlanta Olympic Games was not the 200 metres world record of Michael Johnson nor the fourth long jump gold medal for Carl Lewis. It was the instant when Bela Karolyi carried Kerri Strug into the gymnastics hall to receive her gold medal. She had defied a badly damaged ankle to land cleanly from a vault and help the United States to victory in the women's team event.

Although it was almost midnight, the occasion was seen by 99 million American television viewers. Strug immediately became a national celebrity, the latest in a line of competitors to achieve that distinction — many of whom have been coached by Karolyi.

His methods and those of many successful coaches, both in gymnastics and ice skating, are questioned in the book, *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*. This is the other side of the story of Olympic glory, revealing what has happened to those American gymnasts who have died or been grievously harmed, either emotionally or physically, in their desire for success.

The thesis of Joan Ryan, the author, is clear. "It is about the

GENERAL

elite child athlete and the American obsession with winning that has produced a training environment wherein results are bought at any cost, no matter how devastating."

What makes gymnastics and ice skating so disturbing is that the competitors are immature girls. The stories of eating disorders and injuries make harrowing reading. As Ryan says: "There is no place in elite women's gymnastics for women." The sport is dominated by tiny teenagers and, until the world governing body imposes a lower weight limit, it will have to bear some responsibility for the harm that is being done.

On a more cheering note, *Empire Games*, subtitled *The British Invention of 20th Century Sport*, illuminates how this country spread so many sports to other countries. The author is engagingly committed in detail, but detached in judgment, pointing out how the ethos of the Empire often held back the development of sport in the home country.

Trevor Leggett's eminence in judo is unquestioned and he has always stressed the importance of its mental training as much as its physical aspects. His collection of stories in the Zen tradition should be read by everyone involved in the Japanese martial arts.

□ *Little Girls in Pretty Boxes*, by Joan Ryan (The Women's Press, £8.99).

□ *Empire Games*, by Roger Hutchinson (Mainstream Publishing, £13.99).

□ *The Dragon and Other Judo Stories in the Zen Tradition*, compiled by Trevor Leggett (Ippon Books, £5.99).

JOHN GOODBODY

The day Todd was taken on terror ride

IT IS a relief to learn that even Mark Todd, the most gifted three-day-event rider the sport has seen, has experienced the terror of being run away with on a horse. It happened when the dual Olympic gold-medal winner was asked to event a friend's Grade A showjumper. As soon as they set out on the cross country, the horse took off. "Nothing has been more frightening," Todd said.

A more typical picture of Todd — sitting in perfect balance as his horse soars over a huge log — adorns the cover of *One-Day Eventing*, a definitive guide to the sport, written by Todd with Genevieve Murphy. The book, well-illustrated with pictures by Kit Houghton of the author and his wife, Carolyn, gives advice on all aspects of eventing from buying the right horse to preparations for his first event.

Keeping in a rhythm is, we are told, the key to successful cross-country riding. Todd, whose international career began in 1980 when he won Badminton at his first attempt, thinks many riders get in "too much of a state" about not being able to see a stride. "It would be far more profitable for them to concentrate on keeping a rhythm to the fence and avoid interfering with the horse when he jumps it."

Todd, who appears to see a stride when a field's distance from the fence, also emphasises the importance of flat-work. When he started in the sport in his native New Zealand, he "put up" with the dressage in order to get on with the exciting part of riding across country. Yet he changed his mind when he realised he would only be successful if he improved his dressage. Now getting a horse to go

correctly on the flat is as natural to him as winning.

Any equestrian household would benefit from Judith Draper's invaluable reference manual, *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*. Aspects of stable management, from shoeing and clipping to exercise and grooming, are described in detail.

□ *One-Day Eventing*, by Mark Todd with Genevieve Murphy (Aurum Press, £15.95).

□ *The Book of Horses and Horse Care*, by Judith Draper (Lorenz Books, £16.95).

□ *A Modern Horse Herbal*, by Hilary Page Self (Kenilworth Press, £16.95).

JENNY MACARTHUR

Inside story of first hostilities in saga of sporting conflict

THIS has been a frustrating year for rugby union in many ways, therefore it seems appropriate to select as by far the best book the sport can offer a title that is not available in Britain: however, there is still time for HarperSports to put Peter FitzSimons's *The Rugby War* into the market here, particularly as the saga of which he writes may yet have some distance to run.

FitzSimons, the former Australia lock who is now a journalist with the *Sydney Morning Herald*, offers the inside story on how rugby's amateur hours suddenly toppled like a deck of cards during 1995. More particularly, he examines the threat posed to the game's establishment by the self-styled World Rugby Corporation (WRC), a concept involving a worldwide series of rugby franchises developed by Ross Turnbull and like-minded business colleagues in Australia.

British readers may find FitzSimons's matzy style grates somewhat, but they will acknowledge that it lends immediacy to the events of the past 18 months. The book is a revelation because, before this decade, rugby attracted only limited interest from big business; as this past year has proved, business is now inclined to take a very close

interest in the game, whether it be Sir John Hall in Newcastle or Rupert Murdoch's associates in both hemispheres. *The Rugby War* may prove to be the only first chapter of what is to come.

One of the constant complaints made of rugby union is that it is inaccessible to the casual viewer because of the complexity of its laws. Two books this year offer assistance. Ed Morrison, who

refereed the World Cup final last year, in conversation with an established author in Derek Robinson, has produced an enjoyable ramble through the rulebook in *Rugby - A Referee's Guide*.

It is a "what if" book, in that Robinson paints scenarios and Morrison offers the official — and sometimes unofficial — response. As an adjunct, Mike Mortimer, the Leicester forward who became a referee, has penned *Rugby Law Explained*, a series of articles which have appeared in match programmes at Welford Road.

Autobiographies are thinner on the ground this year — Scott Hastings, that ebullient centre, is one of the few, while Jonathan Davies is as swift off the mark with *Code Breaker* as he was on

the break in both rugby codes. But there is a topicality, as well as sadness, about the publication of *The History of the British Lions* by Clem Thomas, the former Wales flanker and rugby correspondent of *The Observer* who died during the autumn.

Thomas, a great enthusiast for the Lions concept, would have been happy to leave this as his valedictory, yet the future of British Isles tours remains in doubt: unless the home unions place their belief in the idea — rather than concentrating their efforts on exclusively national tours — it may not survive long.

□ *The Rugby War*, by Peter FitzSimons (HarperSports).

□ *Rugby - A Referee's Guide*, by Ed Morrison and Derek Robinson (Collins Willow, £5.99).

□ *Rugby Law Explained*, by Mike Mortimer (Kaifos Press, £4.95).

□ *Great Scott*, by Scott Hastings with Derek Douglas (Mainstream Publishing, £14.99).

□ *Code Breaker*, by Jonathan Davies with Peter Corrigan (Bloomsbury, £16.99).

□ *The History of the British Lions*, by Clem Thomas (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).

DAVID HANDS

Squaring up to big issue in the ring

THE question of the validity of boxing as a sport is never far from our minds and comes sharply into focus every time a tragedy happens in the ring. At such times, most of us shake our heads, have recriminations, applaud new safety measures and carry on as we are. But a growing number of people are wondering whether it does credit to a civilized society to allow such a brutal sport to flourish.

So we must thank Hugh McIlvanney for tackling the subject head-on in his book, *McIlvanney on Boxing*. It is a brilliant essay that marshals the arguments of both sides in the boxing debate.

McIlvanney needs no introduction because he is well-known as the finest writer in the world on boxing and so what he says here is worth the consideration of the British Medical Association (BMA) and the boxing lobby.

In his book, which is a collection of his articles in the *Observer* and *The Sunday Times* from 1966 to the present day, he gives a warning against the sloganising of the BMA and the smugness of those who profit from the game.

Most readers of *The Observer* and *The Sunday Times* will be familiar with the articles, but

they are worth reading again. The book is in two parts. The first covers the golden years of boxing in the 1970s, the second, from the 1980s to the present. The outstanding piece is still McIlvanney's account of the events that led to the tragedy of Johnny Owen in Los Angeles.

If McIlvanney's book is for general consumption, the re-issue of the Sugar Ray Robinson story by Dave Anderson will be

BOXING

welcomed by boxing fans, particularly the older ones.

Robinson held the attention of fans for a quarter of a century from 1940. He had 202 contests, winning 109 of them on knockouts.

It is refreshing to find in these days of braggaris how much he respected his opponents. He said of his defeat by Randolph Turpin: "I was beaten by a better man."

□ *McIlvanney on Boxing*, by Hugh McIlvanney (Mainstream Publishing, £15.99).

□ *Sugar Ray*, The Sugar Ray Robinson Story, by Sugar Ray Robinson with Dave Anderson (Robson Books Ltd, £10.99).

SRIKUMAR SEN

Hill shines brightest in galaxy of stars

John Inverdale was right — it was just what Sunday was made for. Unless, that is, you happened to be a half-Welsh Chelsea supporter with an inexplicable interest in rowing. But enough about me.

Inverdale's perfect Sunday was BBC all the way. It started with live coverage of Wales versus South Africa in *Rugby Special*, continued with the new season of *Ski Sunday* and then, after a suitable break for refreshment, got really serious with *Sports Review* of the year 1996.

My more pragmatic version was to stay at Cardiff Arms Park until the score got embarrassing, then switch to Sunderland against Chelsea on Sky... until the score got embarrassing, and then have a bit of a rest.

Having caught enough of Eurosport's on-off coverage from Val d'Isère over the weekend to know that the

downhill had not gone according to plan (or indeed at all), Hazel Irvine and Julian Tun could wait for another day. As a result, I had slightly longer to wait than Inverdale for *Sports Review* to come along.

Time to reflect on the myriad injustices that lay ahead. Given the BBC's recent track record with viewers' polls, my hot favourite for Sports Personality of the Year was Tony Blair, with Patricia Routledge coming in a close second for her performance in *Hetty Wainthropp Investigates*. The British sporting public — to nobody's great surprise — agreed to differ, according to Damon Hill pole position.

Hill figured third in my personal top three television highlights of the year — all of which, for some reason, took place in the middle of the night. First was the night Michael Johnson ran fast all the way in the 200 metres at Atlanta on BBC1; second was



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

Evander Holyfield turning pay-as-you-view into pay-as-you-see on Sky and third was the night when Hill finally let the nation go back to bed smiling, which I watched on both BBC1 and Eurosport. All three of them were in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, with the two Americans being joined by the Canadian sprinter, Donovan Bailey, as the overseas guests of honour. The BBC had clearly pulled out all the stops.

Some good sport must have taken place during daytime this year, but — apart from Redgrave and Pinsent's victory seen through binoculars

on a hospitality television at Lord's — it all seemed to have become something of a blur. Never mind, Des Lynam, Steve Rider, Sue Barker and a host of BBC videotape editors were about to put that right. They did.

Cleverly, they began with Barry Davies's stirring reprise of Euro 96 and after that... well, the evening went gently downhill, in an enjoyable sort of way. It even survived Frank Skinner and David Baddiel joining The Lightning Seeds and assorted schoolchildren to give us a live rendition of *Football's Coming Home*. As I covered behind the sofa in

embarrassment, I wondered what Evander Holyfield was making of it.

Neither Laura Davies nor Nick Faldo were in the audience, so there went their outside chances of winning. Tim Henman was, but him winning would have been as big a surprise as rediscovering that Richard Krajicek had won Wimbledon. Was Barker sure about that?

Having hit another well-engineered high with the presentation of a cake to birthday boy Frankie Dettori, the evening ground almost to a halt as we returned to the medal desert that was the Atlanta Olympic Games. It was rescued by a wonderful double-handed interview with Johnson and Bailey. Roger Black joined them later and yes, Des, it was the nearest he had got to Michael all year.

Shortly afterwards, it was the nearest Frank Bruno got to a genuine heavyweight

champion all year, when he presented a tactful joint overseas personality of the year to Holyfield and Johnson. Bruno would later pick up his own lifetime achievement award, together with a signed football for his surprise success in "the funny", which this year was a penalty shoot-out featuring Peter Shilton in goal and Jimmy Hill wearing an unwise referee's strip. According to Lynam, this part of the programme is a favourite with us television critics. Can't think why.

Jonathan Edwards did the honours with the envelopes, but the suspense died when he announced that the runner-up trophy had gone to a four-times Olympic gold medal-winner. As I said, not a good day for half-Welsh, Chelsea supporters with an inexplicable interest in rowing...

□ This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

From Russia with warmth

Something to Write Home About. Radio 4, 10.00am.

One thing to write home about is the wide scope of this one-man view of urban Russia today: what is in the shops, how cold it can be, how snow is carted away, what is on television, how thick the walls are in new housing estates, how much a wool suit costs, and why Murphy's beer has to be readily available. The other thing to write home about is how Hughes, the programme's presenter, who went to Novgorod to monitor how European Union cash is being spent to help Russians to improve their central heating. A heating engineer himself, and a magazine contributor, he has a trained nose for sniffing out facts and an invigorating way of reporting them. In short, he is quite a find.

Femmes de Siècle. Radio 3, 9.25pm.

What sort of being will Millennium Woman be? There are pointers in Elaine Showalter's five-part series which began last night. Is mental illness still a female malady? Is it even a feminist malady? *Femmes de Siècle* considers these and related topics in an ideal place — Freud's old consulting room in Hampstead. Flashbacks to the 1890s demonstrate how the melodramatic hysteria of women performers for the theatre was repressed to gain social and political rights. As for 1990s women writers, how many, I wonder, would fit one literary critic's verdict on the nature of women's fiction 100 years ago: "erotic, neurotic, and Tommy-rotic".

Peter Daville

John Hopkins on the continued domination of Austrian skiers in Val d'Isère

Knauss makes a giant impression

WHATEVER the discipline, the one certainty in the Alps here in France these past couple of days has been that the Austrians will dominate it and leave the Swiss, French and Italians bawling in their ski tracks. Austrians took four of the first five places in the super giant slalom race here yesterday, having swept the first four places in the men's downhill the previous day. In skiing, the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Hans Knauss, a 25-year-old Austrian, was the winner with his team-mate and countryman, Günther Mader, in second place. Steve Locher, of Switzerland, prevented a clean sweep by the Austrians, for whom Patrick Ortlieb was fourth and Christian Mayer fifth.

Knauss is considered a good technical skier who has his eye on winning the World Cup super giant slalom competition. "Anything else is extra," Knauss said.

As he had won in Valloire last year, this was his second victory in the event on French soil. He completed the 2.1-kilometre course in 1min 23.26sec, beating Mader by 0.03sec.

"The secret is judging the risks," Graham Bell, the leading Great Britain skier, said after he had patently failed to do that by crashing out as early as the tenth turn.

"You've got to risk it in super-G, because there is no training run. You only have one go at it so you've got to go for it if you want to go quickly, but the difficulty is making sure you don't take too great a risk."

For the second day running, the weather smiled on this



Knauss confirms the credibility of his challenge with his super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Alessandro Trovati

Alpine village, which contains sufficient old architecture to offset the shock of the new, something that the nearby resort of Tignes has failed to do.

And for the second successive day, Luc Alphand, the engaging Frenchman who seems able to talk in almost any European language, was

well adrift of the winner's podium. This was less of a surprise in the super giant slalom than in the downhill, his speciality.

"I feel better today than yesterday," Alphand, 31, said after coming eighth yesterday to follow sixth place in the downhill on Sunday. "I am not unhappy with my perfor-

mance. There was a lot of pressure on me here. I am looking forward to Val Gardena this weekend, where I will not be under as much pressure. If I can win just one race, then I would like it to be in Sestriere." He was referring to the downhill in the world championships in Italy in February.

"I made the classic mistakes of a downhill competing in super-G. It is no surprise that the first three names up there are super-G specialists," he said, gestulating at the results board.

As Alphand spoke, Ortlieb, his rival and a man he says he dislikes, had just skied and, with a time of 1min 23.69sec

compared with Alphand's 1min 23.98sec, had moved into third place. An edge entered Alphand's voice. "I really hope someone comes and pips Ortlieb from third place," he said. When Locher's time flashed up on the board and revealed that he had done just that, Alphand thrust his arm into the air and said "yes" vehemently.

So the World Cup circus moves from France to Italy, to Madonna di Campiglio today, when Alberto Tomba makes his entrance for the season in a

VAL D'ISÈRE: Super giant slalom: 1. H Knauss (Austria) 1min 23.26sec; 2. G Mader (Austria) 1:23.29; 3. S Locher (Austria) 1:23.44; 4. P Ortlieb (Austria) 1:23.69; 5. C Mayer (Austria) 1:23.78; 6. P Runzeder (Austria) 1:23.81; 7. A Schuster (Austria) 1:23.85; 8. J Alphand (Fr) 1:23.98; 9. P Werh (Austria) 1:24.03; 10. H Thiele (Austria) 1:24.12. World Cup standings (after seven events): 1. Knauss 29pts; 2. J Aarnoud (Ned) 23; 3. Mader 22; 4. P Ortlieb 21; 5. G Mader 20; 6. S Locher 19; 7. A Schuster 18; 8. J Alphand 17; 9. P Werh 16; 10. H Thiele 15. STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colorado: World Cup Nordic combined sprint races: 1. J. Norheim (Nor) 3:58.1; 2. Norway (3); 3. Austria (1); 4. Norway (2); 5. Finland (2); 6. Austria (2).

slalom race, and then to Val Gardena for two downhill. So far, there seems no sign of the Austrian dominance being broken.

"Austria is the land of alpine sports," Alphand said. "They have huge resources. Their national team comprises 50 skiers: ours has only 20."

"The Austrians have such a huge set-up," Bell added. "They are always organised, always trained well. They are never under any financial pressure. The only pressure they face is from competing with one another. However, I don't think they will remain this dominant for much longer."

ATHLETICS

Medals garnered by rekindled spirits

AFTER she had led the Great Britain women's team to unexpected bronze medals in the European cross-country championships in Charleroi, Belgium, on Sunday, it was put to Hayley Haining that she could surely count herself included for the world championships in March, unless she had a disaster (David Powell writes). "But I am good at disasters," she responded.

Haining, ninth, and Andrea Whitcombe, fifteenth, were the leading two British women home, both having risen from the sporting grave. Haining finished ahead of Paula Radcliffe in the 1991 world junior championships. What might she have achieved by now but for an assortment of injuries since? Radcliffe was not far off

winning an Olympic medal this summer.

In her mid-teens, Haining, now 24, was away from running for several months after being kicked by a horse and, last month, she was the only member of her team to go down with food poisoning on the eve of the Margate cross country. Before Charleroi, she had not competed for Britain for five years. "I just seemed to jump from one injury to another," she said.

Whitcombe won two senior English titles before retiring. "I just got fed up," she said. Then, feeling unfit, she took up recreational jogging. "I just got back into it gradually," she said. "That was three years ago. It has been a gradual improvement since."

SNOOKER

Clouds lift as Sullivan reveals his sunny side

SEVEN months ago, Ronnie O'Sullivan was branded the game's latest enfant terrible after assaulting an official at the Embassy world championship (Phil Yates writes). By capturing the German Open title on Sunday, he took a further step along the path to rehabilitation.

O'Sullivan, who defeated Alain Robidoux 9-7 in an entertaining final in Osnabrück, not only collected a first prize of £40,000 but also supplied compelling evidence that he is a reformed character, on and off the table.

Ironically, the first seeds of O'Sullivan's fall from grace at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield in April were sown when he played a number of shots left-handed during a first-

round victory over Robidoux. They sparked a bitter exchange of words in which O'Sullivan's comments were, at best, insensitive. On Sunday, O'Sullivan was clearly determined to bury the hatchet. His handshake was warm, his face showed a genuine desire for reconciliation.

A player fined £20,000 and given a suspended one-year ban for lashing out at the world championship is again displaying the sunny disposition that endeared him to all when he turned professional in the summer of 1992 — and his form has improved along with his demeanour.

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN (Eng) vs A Robidoux (Can) 9-7. Frame scores (O'Sullivan first): 72-40, 62-70, 65-65, 55-65, 62-70, 75-50, 61-45, 113-0, 62-34, 116-5, 6-32, 60-61, 16-51, 5-75, 71-45, 146-0.

Answers from page 36

FLEMENSFIRTH

(b) A term of Old English law, probably meaning the offence of entertaining a banished person, and hence the king's right of exacting a penalty for this offence. The word was probably not understood after the OE period, but was preserved in formal commemorations of the rights pertaining to the king.

GROMWELL

(c) The common name for any of the plants of the genus *Lithospermum* (Natural Order Boraginaceae), characterised by hard stony seeds, which were formerly much used in medicine. As to the possible origin of the French *gromil*, several suggestions have been made. Its derivation from *gromm* (mili) is impossible on account of the early form *gromil*; but the 15th-century variants *grinnil*, *grenil* perhaps exhibit some popular etymological approximation to *grain*.

FINGIAN

(a) Or *fujian*, a small porcelain coffee cup, used in the Levant. From the Arabic and Egyptian words.

GANTELLAGE

(b) A feudal right, payable for the racks or stands on which barrels of wine were placed. English rendering of the Old French *chanter* and *channelling*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. Rb3! (threatening 2. Ra8 mating) 1... Ka7; 2. Rb7+ Ka8 (2... Kb3; 3. Rb6 is mate); 3. Kb2 and Black has no good defence.

Excellent, a Hen party.



A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours.

A most Gratifying Ale.

Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd. 1711.



SNOW REPORTS

	Depth L	U	Conditions Fists	Runs to resort	Weather (Sun)	Last snow
AUSTRIA						
Kitzbühel	15	45	fair	varied	sun	2 14/12
	(Upper runs skiing well; possible to ski down to town)					
St Anton	70	220	good	varied	good	sun 2 14/12
	(Great skiing with nearly everything open)					
FRANCE						
Alpe d'Huez	100	260	good	varied	good	fine +1 14/12
	(Excellent skiing conditions everywhere)					
Méribel	90	140	good	varied	good	fine +1 14/12
	(Very good skiing on all open pistes)					
La Plagne	100	210	good	varied	good	fine 2 14/12
	(Excellent skiing in all open areas)					
Val Thorens	160	240	good	varied	good	fine 2 14/12
	(Best pre-Christmas conditions for years; great skiing)					
SWITZERLAND						
C Montana	100	170	good	varied	good	sun +2 14/12
	(Excellent skiing on open pistes; 14 of 41 lifts open)					
Mürren	60	120	good	powder	good	fine 2 14/12
	(All lifts now open; excellent skiing)					
Zermatt	75	260	good	powder	good	sun 1 14/12
	(Very good skiing; 55 of 73 lifts open)					

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; an - artificial.

RADIO 4

- 5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW)
- 6.00 News Briefing 6.10
- Farming Today 6.25 Prayer
- 6.30 Day 6.55 Weather
- 9.00 News 9.05 Call Nick Ross
- 10.00 News: Something to Write Home About (FM). See Choice (24)
- 10.00 Daily Service (LW)
- 10.15 On This Day (LW)
- 10.30 Woman's Hour, Jani Murray meets Doreen Massey, the advocate for better sex education, whose work has taken her all over the world. Winter Warnings: A traditional alternative to turkey from Cornwall, asparagus pie
- 11.30 Madeline Now and Yours, with Lesley Hilditch
- 12.00 News: You and Yours, with Lesley Hilditch
- 12.25pm Random Edition, Peter Snow with news from February 27, 1947 12.25 Weather
- 1.00 The World at One
- 1.40 The Archers (1) 1.55 Shipping
- 2.00 News: Thirty Minute Theatre: Too Many Crooks, by Donald E. Westlake. Two robbers enter a bank vault only to find it full of people — employees and customers already taken hostage. With William Hogg, Andy Lucas and Alec Arnold
- 2.30 Personal Records, with Jeremy Nicholas
- 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Doreen Massey
- 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan sees different versions of Cheltenham
- 4.45 Short Story: Twenty Minutes, by Hugh Leonard. Read by Rosaleen Linehan. A couple wait to meet their daughter and future son-in-law for Christmas
- 5.00 PM, with Chris Lowe and Jon Scott 5.30 Today 5.55 Weather
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News
- 6.30 A Little of What You Farrey, by J.E. Baines. With David Jason and Pam Ferris as Pa and Ma Larkin (4/5) (1)
- 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
- 7.20 Lark Rise and Wendford. Chris Nicholson visits the village from Flora Thompson's book, *Lark Rise and Wendford*, by Margaret Courtenay
- 8.00 Solence Now, with Peter Evans (1)
- 8.30 The Road to Repair, with Cuffs assesses the effect of residential care on young people who have been disturbed, destructive or delinquent (1)
- 9.00 In Touch, with Peter White 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55 Weather
- 10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton
- 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Great Pursuit, by Tom Sharpe. Read by Willie Rushion (7/10)
- 11.00 Mediaman, with Vincent Hanna (1)
- 11.30 Cook's Tour. In a tribute to Peter Cook, Ian Hogg meets his former boss, Lord Gnome, and listens to advice from Peter (1) Dud, Derek and Cive and Sir Arthur Streebe Greeting (2/3) (1)
- 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)
- 12.00 News Inc 12.27am Weather
- 12.30 The Late Book: Midnight Tales, by Bram Stoker (2/5)
- 12.45 Shipping Forecast
- 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.9-98.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.5. LW 158; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 695, 698. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 158 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1058. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara

It ain't necessarily so, but it just might be

Imagination doesn't often get a credit in science documentaries. When it does — as in last night's *Horizon*: Noah's Flood (BBC2) — the mention tends to be apologetic. However, two respectable American earth scientists decided to employ their imaginations, it seems, to locate a real site for the mythical flood mentioned in the Epic of Gilgamesh as well as the Bible. And they were deemed OK by other scientists, so we could stop worrying. They made no specific references to rain, arks, cubits or doves, incidentally, but their theory sounded convincing. When sea levels rose, around seven thousand years ago, salt water surged through the Bosphorus and flooded the basin (formerly holding a fresh-water lake) that we now know as the Black Sea. A dike of the indigenous people yelled: "Hey! Make like a dinosaur!" and scurried.

Noah's Flood was admittedly a

bit hard to follow, at times. In the process of proving their hypothesis, Walter Mignani and Bill Ryan removed long cylindrical "cores" from the bed of the Black Sea, and cut them open — and though I said dutifully "Oh" and "Ah", I couldn't really understand what the solid sludge revealed. All I knew was that whenever a balancing sceptical comment was elicited from a woman Oxford historian, I automatically took sides with the guys with the drilling gear. This historian, presumably a Gilgamesh expert, snootily pool-pooled their discoveries from the comfort of a pleasant room, with a garden dancing in the window behind. Somehow or other, she lost sympathy before she opened her mouth.

The best moment was filmed at Niagara. Of the two scientists, Walter was the "character". He habitually wore reading glasses

clerk against his forehead, like a sight in Dickens. At Niagara, festooned in larkie oilskins, he pointed to the falls and yelled above the roar that the volume of water tumbling into the Black Sea would have been 1,000 times greater than what was flowing here. "How do you know?" asked an unseen interviewer. Walter was astonished by the question, and affronted too. "I calculated it," he said. "What do you mean, how do I know? I calculated it." And, of course, there was no answer to that.

Elsewhere last night imagination was put to other uses. Enid Blyton, the subject of *Secret Lives* (Channel 4), used it to block out pain, of course, and very successfully too. Rarely has a documentary cried out so loudly for the services of Rent-a-Shrink, without result. Blyton was revealed as a rigorously divided personality — the writer, who

trilled in print about her happy home and dear, dear children; and the woman, who hardly recognised her progeny if she met them at the bathroom door. The interesting question, of course, was whether she believed what she wrote, while writing it. Since her imagination was her happiest place, I have absolutely no doubt she did. Most of us knew a lot about Enid Blyton already — *Bookmarks* dramatised biography, with Maureen Lipman, wasn't broadcast so

very long ago. But here we had the testimonies of Blyton's well-known daughters who disagree about their childhood, one surviving with a benign smile, the other a story-faced casualty. We had the gardener's daughter, too, who bitterly catalogued Blyton's cruelties and misdemeanours, without understanding the concept of denial, which explained the whole lot. When Blyton's dog Bob was ill, for example, the great writer refused to accept it when he died, she continued to write his adventures as if nothing had happened. Was this plain hypocrisy, really? Or was it something else?

A couple of things were annoying in Sally Gargrave's film. The old-fashioned typewriter may have been a nice device, but a faster typist might surely have been found. Enid Blyton produced 10,000 words a day, after all. Hunt-and-peck was probably not her style. The other glaring omission

was Blyton's child-readers, who would hardly be difficult to trace. What effect did Blyton's stories have on them — written, as they were, from a peculiarly wounded psyche? Evidently her escapism stories (in which the miseries of family life played no part) touched a common chord, but objectively speaking they are still very, very weird.

Finally, *Giving Tongue* (BBC2) was the last of the Monday night "Wicked Women" films, and I can't say I'm sorry. They have been exhausting to watch. Last night's was written by Emma Fortune and directed by Stefan Schwartz — not a name I knew before — and watching it was a constant struggle to suspend a disbelief which just kept crashing down like heavy paper chains.

I mean, can you really park a horse-box in Parliament Square, while you pop into the House to see

a chum? The IRA should be informed at once. Meanwhile the similarly lip-nibbling plot concerned a new Labour MP (in a new Labour government) whose Private Member's Bill to abolish hunting is ultimately passed by both Houses, much to the particular consternation of her lesbian former lover, Barb, who is employed by a "Master". Does it sound silly when it's put like that? Mm, yes, I suppose it does.

On the plus side, Charlotte Coleman was great as Barb; in fact, all the actors earned their salt. Warren Clarke dignified a miserable role — as Commons clerk, he was obliged to explain to the viewer (by means of a conveniently ignorant new boy) how parliamentary procedure worked. "We walk the Bill UP" and "We walk the Bill DOWN" isn't much of a part, but with the right mix of the right face, and the right tone of voice, the thing can come alive.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

CHOICE

6.00am GMTV (775533)

9.25 CAPTAIN SIMIAN AND THE SPACE MONKEYS (4650104)

9.50 STEP BY STEP (I) (2611901)

10.20 NEWS (3516814)

10.25 REGIONAL NEWS (3515185)

10.30 FILM: Aurora (1984) Sophia Loren stars as a mother whose son desperately needs an eye operation. Directed by Maurice Pialat (6552263)

12.20 REGIONAL NEWS (4175299)

12.30 NEWS (I) and weather (5558678)

12.55 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (I) (327272) 2.00 Home and Away (I) (3218172) 2.25 Murder, She Wrote (327727)

3.20 NEWS (I) (7956386)

3.25 REGIONAL NEWS (7555659)

3.30 POTAMUS PARK (2046831) 3.40 Wizardia (1022982) 3.50 Zor the Dog (4303217) 4.05 Garfield and Friends (2426203) 4.15 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (I) (1635565) 4.40 Art Attack Christmas Cracker (I) (1610333)

5.10 DRACULA — THE ROCK OPERA Last in series (7105901)

5.40 NEWS (I) and weather (532307)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (I) (310185)

6.25 HTV NEWS (I) (585388)

7.00 EMMERDALE Terry faces some difficult decisions (I) (3249)

7.30 MIDDLE AGES Ray Goaling meets people who are coming to terms with the death of their parents (I) (358)

8.00 THE BILL: Black Money Croft and Rowton investigate a case of Romanism (I) (358)

8.30 RESPECT Feature-length drama about a boxer who discovers, upon his retirement from the ring, that life in the outside world is far from straightforward. With Nick Berry and Jayne Ashbourne (I) (65340)

10.00 NEWS (I) (81369)

10.30 REGIONAL NEWS (503901)

10.40 NETWORK FIRST: A portrait of Harvey Nichols the Leeds and London based store (I) (179272)

11.40 HUNTER (369956)

12.40 am NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE EXTRA (6038437)

1.30 FILM: False Witness (1988) Murder mystery starring Phyllis Redhead, Philip Thomas, and Teri Austin. Directed by Arthur Allan Seidelman (833963)

1.35 LATE & LOUD (563925)

4.05 THE CHART SHOW (I) (7754505)

5.00 FRANCES BISSSELL'S WESTCOUNTRY CHRISTMAS (64692)

5.30 NEWS (79573)

HTV

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CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55pm HOME AND AWAY (3533369)

1.25 SIMPLY DELICIOUS (30177630)

1.55 A COUNTRY PRACTICE (29550901)

2.20 VANESSA (2811348)

2.50 FROM THE GROUND UP (3536678)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7105901)

6.25-7.00 CENTRAL NEWS (585388)

7.30-8.00 TUESDAY SPECIAL (388)

11.40 FRANKIE HOWARD (381962)

1.10am Film: UP POWELL (738437)

2.50 LATE & LOUD (1534234)

3.40 FUNNY BUSINESS (22081514)

4.10 FOOTBALL LEAGUE (4723383)

As HTV West except:

12.55 EMMERDALE (5533369)

1.25 MASTERCRAFT (30177630)

1.55 HOME AND AWAY (21183982)

2.25-3.20 HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN (267727)

5.10-5.40 HOME AND AWAY (7105901)

6.00-7.00 WESTCOUNTRY LIVE (19630)

7.30-8.00 BLOOMING MARVELOUS (388)

11.40 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (369956)

As HTV West except:

12.55 DINOSAURS (5533369)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30177630)

1.55 SHORTLAND STREET (29550901)

2.20 HOPE AND GLORIA (2811348)

2.50-3.20 ON YOUR MARKS (3536678)

5.10 HOME AND AWAY (7105901)

6.00 MERIDIAN TONIGHT (524)

6.30-7.00 WHAT'S MY LINE? (104)

7.30-8.00 CROWN AND COUNTRY (388)

11.40 PRISONER CELL BLOCK H (369956)

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 CROSS WITS (5533369)

1.25 HOME AND AWAY (30177630)

1.55 JUSTICE OF THE LAND (21183982)

2.25-3.20 DR QUINN, MEDICINE WOMAN (327727)

5.10-5.40 SHORTLAND STREET (7105901)

6.30-7.00 ANGLIA NEWS (104)

7.30-8.00 OUT TO LUNCH WITH BRIAN TURNER (388)

11.40 WISEGUY (369956)

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CHANNEL 4

6.30am WISH KID (83614)

7.00 THE BIG BREAKFAST (11185)

9.00 FILM: I Dream of Jeannie — 15 Years Later (1985) Comic fantasy starring Barbara Eden and Wayne Rogers. Directed by William Asher (4855366)

10.45 WHITE FANG (6853104) 11.10 Pink Panther (4727235) 11.35 Dog City (903920) 11.55 Tenby (197475)

12.10 House of Horror (71982) 12.30 A Box Full of Stories (45563) 1.00 Sesame Street (37036) 2.00 The Most Expensive Breakfast On Earth (5409036)

2.15 FILM: The Black Swan (1942, b/w) starring Tyrone Power. A reformed suitor who sets out to break a hard-boiled pirate to well-deserved justice. Also with George Sanders. Directed by Henry King (138833)

3.45 FIFTEEN-TO-ONE GRAND FINAL (I) (5907185) 4.30 Countdown (I) (901)

5.00 Ricki Lake (I) (226849)

5.45 POND LIFE (I) (807123)

6.00 BABYLON 5 (I) (772727)

6.50 FRESH POP (815475)

7.00 CHANNEL 4 NEWS (I) (803643)

7.55 THE SLOT (945104)

8.00 THE BATTLE FOR RICKETY BRIDGE

How the older generation became involved in the environmental battle against the Newbury Bypass in Berkshire (I) (4681)

8.30 BROOKSIDE Jackie is concerned about her future (I) (5749)

9.00 BLACK BOX Tonight's final programme looks at pilot problems that have resulted in fatal errors of judgment (I) (8727)

10.00 DROP THE DEAD DONKEY George battles against illness and Henry receives bad news. Last in series (I) (50450)

10.35 ROSEANNE Dan and Roseanne take a stand against neighbourhood festive decorations (I) (40811)

11.05 NORTHERN EXPOSURE Clearly is chosen to test a cold cure — the results turn out to be more stimulating than expected (I) (159678)

12.00 LUMBERJACKS OK (5/6) (6075505)

12.35am BATTERSEA OK (5/6) (6075505)

1.00 CENTURY: Medieval Professor Norman Stone uses the former Italian Prime Minister, Silvio Berlusconi, to illustrate how politicians have succumbed to the persuasive nature of the media (I) (610612)

1.20 YOUR GENERATION Highlights from the 1995 Glastonbury Festival (3154708)

2.20 FILM: The Caribbean Trip (1950, b/w) starring Randolph Scott as a prospector who hits gold (415517)

3.55 FILM: Northwest Stampede (1948, b/w) starring James Craig as a cowboy who inherits a ranch in the Canadian Rockies and then finds his foreman is a woman (3648215). Ends at 5.10

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1



RUGBY UNION 36

Ashton's future
as coach of
Bath in doubt

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 17 1996

SPORTS BOOKS 37

Reading into the
fears that haunt
Seles's return



Chaos as Formula One stands accused



Williams on trial

IT HAS been a long time coming but last night Formula One motor racing finally got the bad news it had been dreading. On February 20 next year, barely two weeks before the start of the new season, Frank Williams and five other men will be brought to trial on manslaughter charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna at Imola in May 1994.

To some, perhaps even some in the Williams team, the news will come as a relief, a preliminary indication that we may be about to find out what really happened in those few seconds before Senna's Williams-Renault hit the wall at the Tamborello corner in the San Marino Grand Prix and his helmet was pierced by a metal suspension rod.

It is better that his death should be shrouded in rumour and

innuendo for years to come, fertile ground for ever-widening speculation. Patrick Head, the Williams technical director and another of those indicted, has already spoken of his desire to take the stand to disprove the theory that one of the greatest grand prix drivers was killed because of the failure of a weld on his car's steering column.

Last night, though, Formula One was in turmoil, bracing itself for a season of chaos with other teams running scared of appearing at the two Italian races scheduled for next year lest any misfortune should befall their drivers.

Flavio Briatore, the Benetton managing director and one of the most influential men in the sport, has already threatened to withdraw both Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger from the San Marino Grand Prix on

Charges arising from the death of Ayrton Senna could have considerable impact says Oliver Holt

April 27 and the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on September 7.

"I would not risk bringing my team to a country that can convict you for an accident," Briatore said recently at the Bologna Motor Show. "Fatality is part of the game as well." Briatore, an Italian, also owns the Ligier team, which would put its participation at the events in doubt as well.

There was no comment last night from either Max Mosley, the president of the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) or Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association (FOCA), but Ken Tyrrell, the

veteran team owner, hinted that other teams would be nervous about racing in Italy in the light of last night's developments.

The fact that this can happen to the Williams team, Tyrrell said, "a professional team where every screw and nut and bolt is secured, a team with a reliability record that is impeccable, raises the question 'what chance is there for the rest of us?' If an accident can happen to them, it can happen to anybody. I have no doubt that the teams will be getting together to decide what action to take. It is a matter for great concern because it could affect motor racing around the world."

The Williams team's lawyer, Roberto Causo, would not confirm whether Williams, Head and Adrian Newey, the chief designer of Senna's car, would appear at the trial which will be held in Imola. A conviction for manslaughter under Italian law, which requires that someone be held responsible for any violent death, carries a maximum prison sentence of five years. Most of those found guilty, though, receive suspended sentences.

The Williams team, who had been expecting the news for the past ten days, released an official statement from its headquarters in Grove, Oxfordshire, regretting the news of the charges. "We do not believe that the charges are well founded," it said, "and intend to do all that is necessary to defend our position."

Federico Bendinelli, an official of

the company that runs the track, Giorgio Foggi, director of the track at the time of the accident, and Roland Brunserade, the director of that season's Formula One races were the other people accused.

The charges have caused consternation throughout the sport because there is no precedent for them. Colin Chapman, the owner of the Lotus team, was pressured by the Italian authorities after the death of his driver, Jochen Rindt, at Monza in 1970. He did not return the following year and Lotus raced under the name WorldWide Racing for that grand prix before things returned to normal.

Some form of compromise may be reached this year, too, of course, but last night the 1997 Formula One season was shrouded under a dark cloud before it had even begun.

Tour party down to 13 fit players

England options restricted by injury to Irani

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

ENGLAND, struggling to maintain morale after a disheartening start to their winter tour, may be choosing from only 13 available players when the first Test match against Zimbabwe begins here tomorrow. Ronnie Irani, the party's one all-rounder, was yesterday taken to hospital in Harare for X-rays on his lower back. If they revealed that damage had been done, he will return home and a replacement will be summoned.

Irani left the field complaining of back pain on the final day of England's match with Matabele last Friday and although he soon returned, he did not add to the 14 balls he had bowled earlier. He underwent fitness tests before the first one-day international on Sunday — which England lost by two wickets — and declared himself able to play, but made little impact on the game.

The England management,

understandably disappointed that Irani said he was 100 per cent fit and then failed to come through the game successfully, made a swift decision to get to the root of the problem. As David Lloyd, the England coach, said: "The issue is clouded by the fact that the injury is to a pivotal player."

Even if the hospital tests

White, Adam Hoolioake and Mark Ealham. As the most effective bowler of the three, White would be clear favourite to be drafted in, but he could not arrive in time to be considered for the Test match tomorrow.

Irani's injury only highlights the gamble England took in not finding a replacement for Dominic Cork when he withdrew from the tour two days before it started for personal reasons. Lloyd was prepared to concede yesterday that England were a player light for their needs in Zimbabwe, which is perhaps a reflection of the fact that they have found the cricket here more uncompromising than they expected.

To give their side balance for the first Test match, England had already decided to play Alec Stewart as a batsman-wicketkeeper, but Irani could still have featured as one of the seam bowlers, though he has bowled fewer than 40 overs on tour.

His injury may be a legacy of him being obliged to remodel his bowling action two years ago after sustaining serious back damage during his first season with Essex, whom he joined from Lancashire in 1994.

One of the few positive things to come out of the defeat on Sunday was the impressive international debut of Chris Silverwood, who has thus put himself firmly in the frame for the Test match. Silverwood dismissed Grant Flower with the last ball of his first over, Andy Flower in his fifth over and barely bowled a bad ball in ten overs.

"He was asked to bowl line and length and followed his instructions to the letter," Lloyd said yesterday. "He's a no-nonsense cricketer. Off the field, you might think he is just a nice lad, but on the field he is aggressive. Under the spotlight and amid all the noise on Sunday, he held up brilliantly."

Praise for Silverwood contrasted starkly with reports of the progress being made by Andy Caddick, who was unexpectedly omitted from the one-day international. "I would like to be impressed," Lloyd said.

Andy Flower, who gave up the captaincy of Zimbabwe earlier this year, has been appointed coach of Oxford University in succession to Les Lenham. Flower has played club and league cricket in England in recent years.



Irani: back problem



Smith launches a model of the all-British entry he will lead in the next Whitbread race

Britons win backing for crack at the Whitbread

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

AFTER complex, extremely delicate and intensive negotiations lasting three months, the best British prospect for victory in the Whitbread Round the World Race for many years finally emerged from the shadows yesterday.

Lawrie Smith, the British helmsman, is to lead a one-boat campaign sponsored by Silk Cut with an all-British team in a new Bruce Farr design, with enough money to get him to the start line off Southampton next September with a real chance of winning.

Smith's place at the helm of the Swedish EF Education male boat has been taken by the top American skipper, Paul Cayard, who is expected to bring with him up to five key members of his America's Cup syndicate for the 2000 America's Cup, including John Kostecki.

In the end, a deal that, at various points — including as late as last week — looked like falling apart, has worked out well for all concerned. Magnus Olsson, the operations manager at Team EF, used unprintable language yesterday to describe his initial reaction when he heard Smith might leave, but he is now happy.

"The reason I was angry was because I had built up a good team and then had to start from the beginning again. In the short term, things are not looking so good, but in the long term, it looks pretty good," he said.



Cayard: substitute

No one at EF was prepared to discuss the amount of money the team had received to compensate it for the loss of Smith.

From Smith's point of view, the swap has been completed with just enough time left to get a boat built and complete the necessary trials, though he will continue to benefit from EF's testing programme in the meantime.

Smith now has full control over his campaign and will be able to work with an all-British crew and several of his long-time lieutenants on what he indicated may well be his last crack at the race.

The crew he has chosen so far include Neal McDonald, Adrian Stead, Steve Hayles, Gordon Maguire, Jason Carrington and Russell Pickall, who will be his sail co-ordinator.

The 1997-98 Whitbread looks like being the most exciting so far, with 12 new Whitbread 60s now certain to start and at least three of the old boats from last time joining them.

As Cayard, who has sailed in four America's Cups but never in the Whitbread, put it: "The racing will be much closer and much tighter. It is not one-design, but very close to that."

Challenge positions, page 34

Rovers' patience rewarded with Eriksson signing

BY PETER BALL

BLACKBURN Rovers' search for a manager has ended virtually where it began; in Italy, but in Genoa rather than Milan. Yesterday, they confirmed that Sven Goran Eriksson will become their manager when his contract with Sampdoria expires in July.

"The game is changing and we decided from the start not to restrict ourselves to English managers," Robert Coar, the Blackburn chairman, said yesterday. "It has been some time since Ray Harford left, but we were determined to make the right appointment."

Initial approaches had been made to Roy Hodgson, of Internazionale, but interest there ended when Hodgson signed a new contract with the Milan club. Blackburn clearly hope that Sampdoria will release Eriksson early, with the club in mid-table in Serie A. The indications yesterday, with Sampdoria refusing to allow Eriksson to fly to England for the press conference or even to allow a satellite television link-up, were that relationships are not warm.

"I can't give any interviews about my next club," Eriksson said in a statement. "I can only comment on the club I am currently employed by."

His input in transfer dealings may not have to wait for his arrival. Tony Parkes, the caretaker-manager, will, however, remain in charge of the

team until Eriksson arrives. He will then revert to the post of assistant manager.

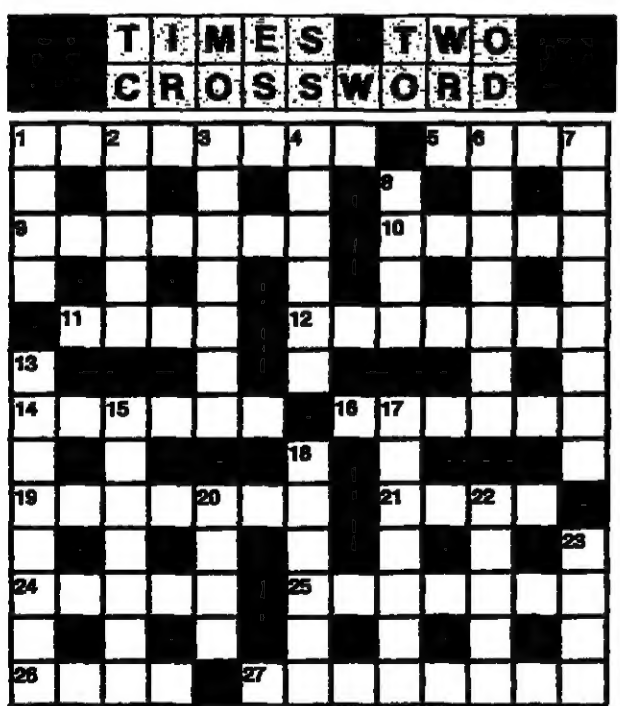
"I'm glad the situation has been sorted out and it is no problem for me to carry on as long as necessary," Parkes said yesterday. His main task will be to ensure that Eriksson still has an FA Carling Premiership club to come to in the summer.

Eriksson, 48, has been charged with a more formidable assignment. "We are confident we have secured the services of a top European coach to underline our ambition to be both a leading club in the Premiership and to compete successfully on a regular basis in European competitions," Coar said.

From his early days with IFK Gothenburg, Eriksson has enjoyed consistent success. Gothenburg won the Uefa Cup and Benfica, under his charge, also reached the final of that competition, while he won league championships in Sweden and Portugal and the Italian Cup with Sampdoria.

Eriksson has signed a three-year contract with Blackburn, at a salary estimated to be not much less than £1 million a year. He can also look forward to having an open cheque-book to recruit players in his rebuilding of a side that has declined badly since winning the championship in 1994-95.

Overseas View, page 36



No 967

- ACROSS
- Wave threateningly (8)
 - Latest information (4)
 - Imply, mean (7)
 - Hunting dog (5)
 - Curve, twist (4)
 - Emergency communication channel (7)
 - Six or Nine, Counties (6)
 - Cry (pig); confess (6)
 - Wet blanket (7)
 - Twelfth of foot (4)
 - Additional (5)
 - Soothing drug; platitude (7)
 - Extinct Mauritian bird (4)
 - Of the intellect (8)
- DOWN
- Hard at work (4)
 - Corner; old German settler (5)
 - Slowly get less (7)
 - Long-handled cutter (6)
 - Difficult to pin down (7)
 - All at once (8)
 - Fired gun (4)
 - Partition on board (8)
 - Acknowledged (officer) (7)
 - Cervantes chivalric Don (7)
 - Farwell (3-3)
 - Byron's amorous Don (4)
 - Old public announcer (5)
 - Telephone inventor, his signal (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 966

ACROSS: 1 Series 5 Past 8 Fund 9 Fraction 10 Vauxhall 11 Awry 12 Wedged 14 Yellow 16 Tomb 18 Optimist 20 Scrounge 21 View 22 Iris 23 Teeter

DOWN: 2 Emulate 3 Index 4 Safe and sound 5 Pitfall 6 Scour 7 Harley Street 13 Gibbons 15 Obscene 17 Occur 19 Movie

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